

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



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Volume 10, Issue 1

Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society

Honourary Patroness - Her Honour Ms Lenore Berscheid

President's Message

By Mary Scott, President

After a very successful AGM on May 13th, you would think things would slow down. But not so. The NCWC AGM was held from June 2nd to June 4th, and there has been ongoing work being done by many of our members. The new Board has met once already, and the year ahead promises to be an active one for Council. The following is a brief synopsis of recent activities:

- At the NCWC AGM, there was a lot of intense discussion and important decisions made on behalf of the local and provincial councils, and the Federate members of NCWC. Along with myself, the group from Manitoba was well represented by Muriel Smith, Gisele Roch, and Pat Powell. The voting body supported Option 1 of the 5 year plan, and that will mean a small increase of our dues, more emphasis on fund raising, and continuing research in requesting a charitable number, or using existing NCWCEF charitable number, (to support NCWC's work), plus an aggressive and coordinated marketing of the *Celebrating Women* products. We are fortunate to have Muriel Smith continue as a VP, Gisele Roch as Social Issues Convener, Arlene Draffin-Jones as a member of the Finance Committee, and newly appointed, Bonnie Siemens as Treasurer.
- All the NCWC resolutions were approved, some with minor amendments, plus 2 emerging issues – "Upholding the Public Health Care System: Banning Dual Practice Medicine" and "Support for Victims of Human Trafficking".
- The May 13th PCWM AGM was most successful. A vote of thanks to Arlene Draffin-Jones and her hard working committee. The theme "Water, Water, Everywhere, and Not a Drop to Drink??" was timely and well received. Follow up work needs to continue, and we have been asked to participate on a Lake Winnipeg Group to share information, and look at strategy options. Diane Malley has agreed to be a resource for PCWM on this issue. We did ask for a meeting with the Minister, Rona Ambrose, but this did not occur during the NCWC AGM, as requested.

- I attended the PCWM Mental Health Committee meeting, capably chaired by Beverley Goodwin. This committee is doing a lot of good research, and will be preparing a report for later this year.
- Also attended the UNPAC AGM, the wine and cheese, hosted by LEAF, luncheon with Bill Graham (leader of the Opposition Party) and the Life Members Luncheon in May.
- We continue to receive new members, and welcome 3 new federates: Ikwe-Widdjiitwin, Inc.; Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.; and MB/NW Ontario Conference United Church (UCW). Also individual members - welcome to you all – we look forward to your participation and encourage you to contact us about your issues and if you might want to participate on one of our working committees (Poverty; Mental Health; Rural/Urban). There are many opportunities for you to participate. Board meetings are open, and if you would like more information about volunteering opportunities, please call the office, or e-mail: pcwm@mts.net
- Special thanks to Sharon Scharfe who has coordinated our response to the Province regarding proposed plans for the Portage Jail. A meeting was held with Debra Parkes (Chair, E. Fry), and Pat White and Bev Owens (Justice). Marilyn McGonigal, Sharon Scharfe and Betty Hopkins were all involved with this consultation.
- The joint archives committee, consisting of Irene McKenzie, Pat Powell, Arlene Draffin-Jones, Donna Mae Yeo, with the assistance of Archivist Diane Haglund, continue to assemble material at the MERC Building, 691 Wolseley Ave. (a wonderful contribution by Misericordia Hospital). We have the space until June 20th, at which time they will be stored, until we know the status of our grant application to the Winnipeg Foundation. The PCWM office files have been reviewed and the minutes/annual reports and other materials taken to the depot. This is preparation for both CWW and PCWM files to be deposited in the Manitoba Archives, where we do already have material.

I look forward to working with you all, and bringing forward the issues and concerns of our members. Working together we can make a difference. Best wishes to all for a summer break.

Report from the Poverty Committee

By Marilyn McGonigal, Chair

Employment Standards Code Review Update:

Hey, what about equal prorated pay and benefits for part-time workers?

Labour and Immigration Minister Nancy Allan released the Labour Management Review Committee's (LMRC) consensus report on the Employment Standards Code Review on May 26. The review committee was chaired by Michael Werier and constructed with equal representation of labour and business, like the Minimum Wage Board. It reached a consensus, (unlike any Minimum Wage Boards made up of the same trilogy in recent memory), on a number of necessary changes that will update the cobwebby Employment Standards Code after 30 years without a comprehensive review.

"Part of the challenge of maintaining Manitoba's competitive edge is ensuring the legislation governing our workplaces is modern and equitable for employers and workers," said Minister Nancy Allan in the news release announcing the report. From PCWM's point of view, however, a comprehensive review ought to have addressed more than a formula for statutory holiday pay for part-time workers (albeit welcome) and included equal pay and benefits for part-time workers under this review. As our brief in January pointed out, today, seventy percent of part-time workers are women, and PCWM passed its first resolution calling for equal pay for work of equal value and prorated pay and benefits for part time work, in 1955!

This province failed to enact equitable Employment Standards for women in part time work for the past 51 years because back then, women were deemed to be working part time for 'pin money' and not for necessities. This was a myth of course, a face-saving device when the cultural expectation of men was that they alone support their dependent wives and children. Today, part time work is structured by employers to avoid the requirements of providing job stability and benefits payable to full time workers by law or under collective agreements, thus taking advantage of one of the largest loopholes in the employment standards legislation. Accumulating justly earned pension credits, equal pay and benefits, particularly sick and family care leave is no longer a luxury. Denying part time workers, mostly women, job stability and employment standards protections including equal pay and benefits clearly contributes to the feminization of poverty and continues a tradition of structural gender inequality based on a contrived voluntary consent to provide the same work for less than just and equal remuneration.

If there is no reconsideration of this omission when legislation is introduced perhaps as early as the fall, there is a good chance 52% of our granddaughters will likely retire on incomes below the poverty line, just like the present generation of senior women.

The PCWM Poverty Committee will be drafting our response to the recommendations of the LMRC to submit to the Minister of labour in June.

Why are we doing this to women?

The Poverty Committee has also been involved in a consultation process recently about the new women's prison to be built in Headingley. PCWM was asked to meet with Bev Owens, the warden of Portage La Prairie jail and Pat White, Probation Officer. Our E-Fry representative, Sharon Scharfe, Mary Scott, Betty Hopkins and I (Marilyn McGonigal) met with them last month and shared our views on the proposed prison and programming needs for incarcerated women. Concerns expressed included the fact that there is little programming for the women in PLP for the next three years while the new facility is being built; little is known about the programming planned for the women in the new facility; and serious concerns about remand – of the 95 women at PLP jail (a new reality), built for a population of 35 men over 100 years ago, 75% to 80% are on remand (awaiting trial), with no programs available, often for up to 2 years. Sentenced women fare no better it seems due to overcrowding! This is a crisis. We are advocating an equal sum (\$25,000,000 is slated for the new jail) be allocated to programs (concurrently, not consecutively) and that concerns about remand be addressed in the meantime.

A new book, "Criminalizing Women," edited by Gillian Balfour and Elizabeth Comack, (available from Fernwood Publishing and McNally Robinson) outlines the myriad issues complicating solutions to the little-noticed issue of incarcerating women for being poor. Besides the familiar "feminization of poverty" (see example above re: employment standards!) we are now confronted with the "criminalization of poverty"! The two together point to the urgent need for strategies to "address the conditions inside women's prisons and defend criminalized women's human rights, and to draw attention to the systemic abuses against poor and racialized women." (quote from the cover)

The Poverty Committee will meet again in July and new members are welcome to join us. We are having great discussions and there is plenty of work for everyone.

Pay-As-You- Drive Vehicle Insurance

By Mary Scott and Carolyn Garlich

One of the benefits of the Resolution process for Council members is the education potential for all of us. At the recent AGM of Provincial Council, a resolution was passed urging Manitoba (MPI – Manitoba Public Insurance) to consider introducing Pay-As-You-Drive Vehicle Insurance. There were questions asked at the meeting about the application of such a program, and we have chosen to include the following article, taken from the Victoria Transport Policy Institute (<http://www.vtpi.org/>), and excerpts from a Brief by Peter Miller and Paul Nielson (on behalf of Resource Conservation Manitoba and Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems) to the Public Utilities Board, in October 2005.

Pay-As-You-Drive (PAYD) Vehicle Insurance means that a vehicle's insurance premiums are based directly on how much it is driven during the policy term. The more you drive the more you pay and the less you drive the more you save. This can be done by changing the unit of exposure (i.e., how premiums are calculated) from the vehicle-year to the vehicle-mile, vehicle-kilometer or vehicle-minute. Existing rating factors are incorporated so higher-risk motorists pay more per unit than lower-risk drivers. For example, a \$375 annual premium becomes 3¢ per mile, and a \$1,250 annual premium becomes 10¢ per mile. An average U.S. motorist would pay about 6¢ per mile.

Pay-As-You-Drive can be optional, so motorists choose the unit of exposure they want, just as consumers now choose differ rate structures for telephone and Internet service.

Justifications for Pay-As-You-Drive Insurance

Vehicle insurance is a significant portion of total vehicle costs, averaging about \$800 per vehicle-year in the U.S. A typical motorist spends almost as much on insurance as on fuel. It is the largest vehicle cost for many lower-income motorists. Insurance is currently considered a fixed cost with respect to vehicle use; a reduction in mileage does not usually provide a comparable reduction in insurance premiums.

Pay-As-You-Drive insurance reflects the market principle that prices (what consumers pay) should be based on costs (the costs of providing a good or service). Research indicates that within existing price categories, annual claims increase with annual vehicle mileage. Mileage is just one of several factors that affect crash rates. It would not improve actuarial accuracy (i.e., how well premiums reflect insurance costs for a particular vehicle) to use

mileage *instead* of other rating factors, for example, to charge all motorists the same per-mile insurance fee, but accuracy improves significantly if annual mileage is incorporated *in addition* to existing rating factors. Any other price structure overcharges low-mileage motorists and undercharges high-mileage motorists within a rate class.

Pay-As-You-Drive pricing can help achieve several public policy goals including fairness, affordability, road safety, consumer savings and choice, and reduced traffic problems. PAYD gives consumers a new way to save money by returning to individual motorists the insurance cost savings that result when they drive less. Motorists who continue their current mileage would be no worse off on average than they are now, while those who reduce their mileage save money. As a result, consumers benefit overall.

It helps reduce traffic congestion, road and parking facility costs, and environmental impacts. It reduces the need for cross-subsidies currently required to provide "affordable" unlimited-mileage coverage to high-risk drivers.

How It Is Implemented

Several methods can be used to calculate and collect premiums. One is to have motorists prepay for the miles they expect to drive during the term of coverage (typically a year), either in a lump sum or in several payments. For example, some motorists might pay for 12,000 miles at the start of the term, while others might pay for just 5,000 miles at first and make additional payments as needed. The total premium is calculated at the end of the term based on recorded mileage. Vehicle owners are credited for unused miles or pay any outstanding balance. Other insurance companies charge for insurance as they do now, but provide a rebate if, at the end of the policy term, a vehicle's mileage is below certain limits. Another approach is for insurance companies to bill motorists based on their monthly or bi-monthly vehicle mileage, similar to other utilities. This requires more frequent mileage data collection.

Pay-As-You-Drive pricing requires verified mileage data. This can be collected in various ways. The simplest approach is to have brokers or vehicle owners report odometer readings, by email or mail, with random verification spot checks. More sophisticated systems use electronic devices which automatically send mileage data, or even track when and where a vehicle is driven. The cost of automated data collection is declining since most newer cars have odometer data recorded in the engine computer, and many have wireless communication systems or GPS transponders. Another approach is to require odometer audits. This could

Pay As You Drive, continued from Page 2

provide data as accurate as other metered goods (such as electricity) at little extra cost.

Note that versions of PAYD have already been implemented as either pilot projects or regular options for coverage in Minnesota, Ontario, South Africa, Texas, Israel, the Netherlands, and the UK and General Motors Acceptance Corporation is piloting mileage-based insurance discounts to OnStar (vehicle GPS, monitoring, and communication systems) subscribers in several states. The technologically simplest system is one based on periodic audited odometer readings, as in the Dutch system.

Report on the NCWC AGM: An Intense and Focused Meeting

By Mary Scott, President

The National Council held their 113th Annual General Meeting in Ottawa this year, with a full business agenda. Meetings started on Friday, June 2nd, at 6:00 pm, and adjourned on Sunday, June 4th, at noon. The business included receiving reports; a discussion on the future financial planning for NCWC; debates on resolutions and attending a dinner hosted by the National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization (NCWCDO) and a luncheon hosted by the National Council of Women of Canada Education Fund (NCWCEF). There were 50 voting members present, representing provincial and local councils, and national organizations.

Certainly the saga of how to continue operating a national organization, with limited funds, and a rapidly dwindling capital fund was uppermost in everyone's mind. The members voted to support a strategic plan that would put more emphasis on money raising, cut back on staff and operating costs, and aggressively market the Celebrating Women merchandise. The possibility of applying for a charitable number will be considered, or putting to better use, to support NCWC operations, the NCWCEF charitable number.

The Resolutions that were carried, some with minor amendments:

- Aboriginal Family Violence
- National Anti-Poverty Legislation
- Permanent Residence for Nations of Moratoria Countries
- Private Health Insurance
- Small Arms and Light Weapons Trade
- Investing in Post-Secondary Education

- Gender as an Identifiable Group in the Criminal code
- The Need for Ethical Canada Pension Plan Investments
- Wetlands Conservation

The Policy Updates that were carried:

- Helping Foreign-Trained Professionals Access Accreditation
- Protecting Prime Farmlands in Canada

Emerging Issue Resolutions that were carried:

- Upholding the Public Health Care System: Banning Dual Practice Medicine
- Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

It is true NCWC is at a cross roads – the challenge is there for all us to work together to build the organization as one effective to work in today's fast paced society. I expect we will be hearing more from our President, Carla Kozak as things unfold, and plans are formulated, and implemented, so stay tuned.

We are making a major contribution with Muriel Smith as a Vice President; Gisele Roch as the Social Issues Convener; Arlene Draffin-Jones and Sally Thomas as co presidents of NCWCDO, and just recently appointed, Bonnie Siemens as Treasurer. The Manitoba contribution to this effort is significant – our best wishes for your work.

Congratulations to Sally Thomas!

A past president of the Council of Women of Winnipeg, and a member of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Sally Thomas has received the National Volunteer of Distinction Award from Osteoporosis Canada - This award honours an exceptional individual who has made a superior and sustained contribution to the Osteoporosis Society of Canada and has demonstrated outstanding leadership worthy of acknowledgement. The recipient must be a volunteer for eight years or more and only one OSC volunteer in all of Canada is eligible for this distinction each year.
Well done Sally!

“Water, Water Everywhere .. and not a drop to drink?” – Report on the PCWM 57th AGM and Seminar, May 13, 2006 in Gimli
 By Arlene Draffin Jones, Past President

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba held its 57th Annual General Meeting in the land between the “Inland Oceans” of Lake Winnipeg and, water that is in jeopardy. The issue of safe accessible water is of concern to all of us.

Over 50 persons met at the New Horizons Activity Centre in Gimli to hear the seminar speakers share their expertise and commitment to protecting and preserving Canada’s water. Following a healthy and tasty Continental Breakfast the day began with President Mary Scott introducing First Nations Drummer Jo Jo Sutherland who lead us in an opening invocation. A message was read from PCWM Patroness The Honourable Lenore Berscheid and her invitation to support His Honour the Honourable John Harvard, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba School Project “A Place to be Peaceful and Happy”. *(For more information about the project see the April newsletter or call PCWM office at 992-2751).*

Greetings from the Government of Canada were brought by Mr. James Bezan, MP for Selkirk and the Interlake. He stated that his government is aware of the concerns about Lake Winnipeg. The Honourable Peter Bjornson MLA for Gimli was unable to attend but sent his good wishes and a donation of a beach chair for the raffle. Mayor Kevin Chudd of Gimli welcomed us to the community and shared his concerns facing the issues of water.

The Annual General meeting followed where two resolutions were passed:

1. **Pay As You Drive Insurance** – by a slim majority with recommendations to hold more educational sessions to discuss the process.
2. **Reduced Driving to Meet Kyoto Protocol Targets.**

The resolution **Reduction of Social and Economic Inequity Key to Healthy Living Strategy** was presented for information.

See Page 8 for a list of the new Board of Directors for PCWM.

Dr. Diane Malley, a PCWM member and renowned research scientist introduced Harold Taylor who delivered the keynote address on the “**Challenges to the Quantity and Quality of Water in Manitoba**”. Harold is a long time advocate for water conservation initiatives, education and inter-jurisdictional cooperation set the stage for the excellent panel presentations in the afternoon.

Copies of the “**Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg – Canada’s Sixth Great Lake**”, the report by the Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee were given to the participants. Dr. Malley was the lead scientific writer for this report.*

During lunch Lorna Tergesen, a former Gimli Fjalkona (Maid of the Mountain) delighted us with the stories of the “**Women of Gimli**” – a historical look at the courageous women who came from Iceland to settle in Manitoba. Gimli Credit Union graciously sponsored Lorna’s presentation.

After lunch we were pleased to have Priscilla Boucher, Vice President Corporate Social Responsibility at Assiniboine Credit Union – a first for a Canadian Credit Union, speak about “**the Role of Financial Institutions in the Protection of the Environment**”. A special thank you to Assiniboine Credit Union for hosting the luncheon.

The panel chaired by Dr. Malley focused on solutions and challenges, particularly at the provincial and municipal level, for water and sewer management and agricultural runoff. Panelists Ron Coley, Dr. Al Kristofferson and Gracia Janes shared their experiences and expertise. Ron lives in Gimli and brings an international perspective on the local concerns. Gracia is from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and is the National Council of Women of Canada Vice President, Environment. Al is the Coordinator of the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and his enthusiasm in recognizing the important role that Research can play in protecting and sustaining Lake Winnipeg now and for future generations to come is infectious.

A highlight of the day was a tour of the Lake Winnipeg Research vessel “**Namao**” arranged by Dr. Al Kristofferson.

* For information on where to obtain copies of the report and other resource materials please call the PCWM office at 992-2751.

PCWM gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and individuals for their sponsorship and generosity:

Major Sponsor: Assiniboine Credit Union
Luncheon Speaker Lorna Tergesen: Gimli Credit Union

Prize Donors:

Interlake Women Business Owners Association Inc.
 Karen’s Flowers, Winnipeg
 Canada Safeway, Luxton Branch, Winnipeg
 Peter Bjornson, MLA Gimli
 Leonore Saunders, PCWM and Life member
 Mary Scott, President, PCWM
 Arlene Draffin Jones, Past President, PCWM
 Helen Woloschuk, CWW

Water Bottles: Olympia Cycle & Ski and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

For Your Information – Small Grants Fact Sheet **United Way Small Grants Program**

Intent of Small Grants Program

United Way Small Grants (SG) Program assists informal groups of residents and consumers to invest in their neighbourhoods or communities by:

- Supporting activities that increase the social capital¹ of a neighbourhood or demographic community
- Developing personal skills, assets and abilities that will be used to build a community or neighbourhood and increase social capital

The SG Program provides small amounts of capital (\$100.00 to \$1,000.00) to purchase materials, supplies or services. The program enables small informal groups of people to identify solutions to local neighbourhood or community issues and act on them using Community Development values and principles.

Scope of Small Grants Program

The program is offered citywide in high need, low serviced neighbourhoods and to demographic communities not represented by a citywide or provincial organization.

Small Grants Program Eligibility

- Non-incorporated groups of individuals that are working together to improve their neighbourhood. Minimum 3 individuals.
- Informal groups of residents and consumers that are not primarily connected to formal institutions or
- Informal groups of residents and consumer groups who do not operate in long term or re-occurring partnership with an organization holding a charitable number.
- Individuals who require information or knowledge in order to assist their neighbourhood or community to improve and are seen as leaders in their neighbourhood or community.

Small Grants Program, Eligible Activities

Eligible activities should focus on specific solutions to community challenges and may include:

- Improving neighbourhood safety
- Building information connections among area residents to encourage distribution of neighbourhood poverty reduction information.
- Building personal connections among area residents
- Making neighbourhoods good places for children to grow up.

- Obtaining or enhancing personal community development skills

Notes:

- No funding would be used to compensate individuals for their time or personal expenses.
- No funds will be approved for the purchase of capital assets such as computers or to supplement larger neighbourhood or community events with budgets over \$1,000.00

Reporting and Accountability

- One individual is required to sign a letter of commitment and agree to be responsible for the funds
- Complete activities within 1 year of approval
- Submit final report on outcomes or
- Submit pictorial report or
- Provide verbal report to CI committee or
- Project tour for ALT volunteers
- Submit copies of receipts for products purchased

Small Grants Application Process

- A U. Way volunteer or staff person or a community development coordinator (CDC) becomes aware of a situation where a small grant would be useful.
- Assisted by the volunteer or staff person or CDC, a 1 page letter or e-mail is submitted to the Community Investment Committee staff, describing:
 - The neighbourhood that will be the focus
 - The individuals advancing the request
 - The specific use for the funds
 - The time frame in which they will be used
 - How the CI Committee will know the funds have been spent¹

Small Grants Application Priorities

High Priority:

- Improving or contributing to neighbourhood safety
- Improving or contributing to building personal connections among area residents
- Improving or contributing to making neighbourhoods good places for children to grow up.
- Improving or contributing to obtaining or enhancing personal community development skills
- Improving or contributing to making neighbourhoods good places for children to grow up.
- Improving or contributing to obtaining or enhancing personal community development skills

***Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba,
Inc.
Board of Directors
2006-2007***

President – Mary Scott
 Past President – Arlene Draffin Jones
 First Vice President – Maxine Balbon
 Second Vice President – Marilyn McGonigal
 Treasurer – Shirley Walker
 Board Secretary – Peggy Barker
 Membership – Barbara Kendel
 Constitution – Marilyn McGonigal
 Program – Sharon Scharfe
 Resolutions – Muriel Smith and Sharon Taylor
 Archives – Eira (Babs) Friesen and Donna Mae Yeo
 Council of Women of Winnipeg Representative –
 Pat Powell
 Communications/Newsletter – Karen Sharma
 Member-at-large – Helen Garrity

Calendar for 2006-2007

- June 15th joint board with both those from 2005-2006 not continuing, and the new members for 2006-2007. Meeting to start at 5:30 pm. By then some of us will have attended the NCWC AGM and be able to report. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- September 7th Board Meeting. 5:30 start. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- September 21st. General Meeting. 7:00 start
- October 5th Board Meeting 5:30 start.
- October 26th General Meeting 7:00 start
- November 2nd Board Meeting 5:30 start
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- November 18th or 25th Semi Annual (A Saturday. Program and Meeting from 9:30 to 2:30)
- January 4th Board Meeting 5:30 start
- January 15th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- January 25th General Meeting 7:00 start
- February 1st Board Meeting 5:30 start
- February 16th Round Table (A Friday, from 11:00am to 2:00 pm)
- March 1st Board Meeting 5:30 start
- March 22nd General Meeting (Resolutions)
- April 5th Board Meeting 5:30 start NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- May 5th or May 11th - Annual Meeting. This is a Saturday, and could be changed to a lunch/dinner as it likely will be in Winnipeg.

Please note, all Board meetings are held at Aikins House, General Meetings in the Common Room of Balmoral Hall School.

***Meet Your Board of Directors
Spotlight On... Muriel Smith and Sharon Taylor***

Muriel Smith

Muriel Smith is currently co-chairing the Resolutions Committee with Sharon Taylor and serving her second year as Vice-President for Legislation on the National Council of Women of Canada.

Muriel has recently been digesting the four studies commissioned by the Status of Women Canada on polygamy in Canada and is keeping in close touch with others following the same issue.

In September, Muriel will be attending the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Women in Kyev, Ukraine. This will be her first visit there.

Muriel also works with the United Nations Platform for Action Committee (UNPAC). UNPAC is currently working to promote gender-based analysis of the provincial budget, and reaching out to rural, urban and northern women to demystify the budget and assist them in finding voice for their concerns. UNPAC is a federate of the PCWM, and values the connection.

Sharon Taylor

Sharon Taylor is currently co-chairing the resolutions Committee with Muriel Smith. Sharon is presently the Executive Director of Wolseley Family Place. She has been in this position for the past 8 years.

Sharon received her Honors Degree in Sociology from the University of Manitoba. Sharon has also received a diploma in Social Work and has studied at the University of Winnipeg, University of Saskatchewan, University of Brandon, and Concordia University.

Sharon has been involved on various National Advisory committees on topics such as Governance of Community Based Organizations; Volunteer Management; Homelessness and Food Security.

Sharon is presently a board member for the following organizations –Resolve, West Broadway Development Corporation, Provincial Council of Women and CLOUT. Sharon's interests include learning music; learning art of different mediums; her dogs; scooter riding and learning how to relax and appreciate quiet time. Sharon's future plans are to live long enough to see women valued for their diversity, their gifts, their strengths, and their abilities. That women have received true equity in our society and no woman in the world is living in poverty and that all women are given all the options and choices to live their lives to their fullest potential.

Coming Events

June 22 & 23, 2006

Open House with Councillor Jenny Gerbasi

Open house: Councillor Jenny Gerbasi and the City of Winnipeg Planning, Property and Development Department invite the public to an open house being held to review and comment on the draft Osborne Village Neighbourhood Plan which will guide development and capital improvements in the Osborne Village Area over the next 20 years. A brief overview presentation will be given at 6:30 p.m. each evening. The draft Osborne Village Neighbourhood Plan, as well as several background studies, are also available for review on the City's website at www.Winnipeg.ca/ppd/planning_ovdp.stm.

River Osborne Community Centre

101 Pembina Highway

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Get Your Lawn Off Drugs – Free Organic Lawn-care Workshops

Contrary to popular belief and common practice you don't need to use environmentally damaging and health hazardous pesticides in order to have a lush, weed-free lawn. The Manitoba Eco-Network is pleased to offer a series of **free** organic lawn care workshops to show you how to effectively maintain a beautiful lawn without using any harmful chemicals. Workshop topics will include: a brief overview of current pesticide use and the human/environmental impacts, specific organic lawn care techniques and practices, and some alternatives to lawns.

Organic Lawn Care Workshops will be held at the following public libraries around Winnipeg:

- **Tuesday June 27th** Osborne Library 625 Osborne St [Fort Rouge Leisure Centre]
- **Thursday June 29th** West End Library 823 Ellice Ave
- **Tuesday July 4th** St. Vital Library 6 Fermor Ave
- **Thursday July 6th** Pembina Trail Library 2724 Pembina Hwy
- **Tuesday July 11th** St. James-Assiniboia Library 1910 Portage Ave
- **Thursday July 13th** West Kildonan Library 365 Jefferson Ave
- **Tuesday July 18th** River Heights Library 1520 Corydon Ave
- **Thursday July 20th** Munroe Library 489 London Street

[All the above workshops run between 7:00 and 8:00 P.M.]

Noon-hour workshop: Wednesday July 12th (12-1pm)

Millennium Library 251 Donald Street [Carol Shields Auditorium]

To register or obtain further information please call the Manitoba Eco-Network at 947-6511 and ask for Jennifer.

September 15, 2006

Volunteer Manitoba – Funders Forum

Volunteer Manitoba invites you to participate in the upcoming *Funders Forum*. The Forum will include: Presentation from Government, Corporate, and Foundation Representatives on their funding requirements and application processes;

- Networking opportunities;
- Workshop on "Successful Project Planning for Non-Profits";
- Refreshments and lunch.

Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00

To register, please visit their website:

http://www.volunteermanitoba.ca/newsite/workshops_events2.htm

September 21, 2006

Debra Parkes on "Women in Corrections in Manitoba"

Debra Parkes, a law professor at the University of Manitoba and President of the Board of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, will be addressing the PCWM on September 21st at 7 p.m. on the issue of Women and Corrections in Manitoba. She will review the current situation with regards to the Portage Correctional Centre and the recent consultations held by Manitoba Justice with community groups on the new jail that will be built in Headingley and then strategize with PCWM as to further courses of action.

7:00 p.m.

Please contact PCWM for more information

Did You Know?

UNPAC Manitoba at World Urban Forum:

Representatives from the UN Platform for Action Committee Manitoba (UNPAC) will be attending the World Urban Forum taking place in Vancouver, June 19 – 23, 2006. For more information on forum sessions of interest to women, visit: <http://www.huairou.org/>.

Update on LEAF book: The new LEAF book titled *Making Equality Rights Real: Securing Substantive Equality Under the Charter* can now be ordered through the website: <http://www.irwinlaw.com> or e-mail the publisher, Jeffrey Miller, at: jmiller@irwinlaw.com.

Photocopying of this Newsletter was made possible by the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council.