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THANK YOU:

The **Public Health Agency of Canada** for financial contribution and support.

The **Manitoba Government**—Family Violence and Prevention Program for financial contribution, endless support and assistance for all our members.

The **Manitoba Government**—Status of Women & Manitoba Women’s Advisory Council for their continued work to ending exploitation and violence against women.

To all the **organizations** and **individuals** who have arranged fundraising events, and donated goods and services throughout the year.

To our **membership** who make all we do possible.



# MAWS

manitoba association of women's shelters

## Annual General Report 2013 – 2014

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS INC.  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

maws.mb.ca

**CHAIRS REPORT 2013-2014**

By Karen Peto

2013-2014 has been another year of interesting challenges in the shelter movement and for MAWS. Through MAWS we have tried to address the issues affecting us all, to improve how we respond to clients using our shelters. We have used our collective wisdom and voices to provide support to one another, to increase public awareness of the work we do, and to search for ways to better prepare our staff to support and empower our clients.

We have continued to work with Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure the continuation of the Federal CAPC program which funds the children's programs in our shelters and to improve that programming. MAWS was awarded a grant from PHAC to provide training to our staff working with children from 0-6 this year, which offered our staff some great tools for their work with children.

Our members are working to incorporate the WISH program as the database used by all of MAWS members to record and hold valuable data about the work we do in our shelters. This program, in addition to capturing data about our clients, has allowed us to capture the data needed for reporting to PHAC and to the Family Violence Prevention program. The Winnipeg Foundation assisted us this year by providing funds to for technology, hardware, and training for the WISH program. Our goal is to be able to provide reliable province wide data on topics important to the operating of Women's Shelters.

Life in shelters has changed over the time that I have been involved with the shelter movement. Each client that comes through our doors is an individual with differing issues. Although this has always been the case, I have noticed the issues facing clients become increasing complex over the years. Societal issues such as drugs, alcohol, gangs, increasing immigration and language barriers, the lack of affordable and safe housing, play an increasing role in the lives of the women we see using our shelters. These same issues make the role of the shelters and their staff more important and complex as well.

Poverty is a huge barrier to women trying to make a life for themselves and their children. It is overwhelming for women to leave an abusive situation with the knowledge that the choice will likely Continued on next page...

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Registered Charitable No.  
880786892RR001

The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. Financial Statements year ended March 31, 2014.

Independent Auditor's Report conducted by Stefanson Lee Romaniuk, June 2014.

*"In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. as at March 31, 2014 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations."*

**THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS INC.**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2014**

	Operating Fund 2014	CAPC Fund 2014	Total 2014	Total 2013
<b>Revenues</b>				
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$ 7,600	\$ 222,647	\$ 230,247	\$ 222,947
Memberships	6,900	-	6,900	7,000
Grants	29,407	-	29,407	38,690
Interest income	467	360	827	829
Donations	2,551	-	2,551	2,838
Event and technical presentations	-	-	-	13,153
	46,925	223,327	270,252	285,257
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Access to Justice Personnel	15,084	-	15,084	-
Bank charges	-	48	48	10
CAPC Grant Training - Anna's House	7,405	-	7,405	-
Database	-	-	-	8,940
Events and seminars	297	-	297	7,601
Meetings	8,611	-	8,611	4,376
Membership	592	1,500	2,092	1,500
Office	2,057	1,809	3,866	4,312
Personnel	7,966	23,204	31,200	39,810
Professional fees	538	2,000	2,538	2,464
Shelter operating grants	-	178,434	178,434	178,434
Shelter supplies grants	-	3,000	3,000	8,000
Shelter training grants	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
Travel and training	135	2,500	2,635	6,582
	42,715	222,995	265,710	278,528
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures</b>	4,210	332	4,542	8,729
<b>Fund balance, beginning of year</b>	33,181	(110)	33,071	26,342
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	\$ 37,391	\$ 222	\$ 37,613	\$ 33,071

See notes to financial statements

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## Provincial CAPC Report

CAPC stands for "Community Action Program for Children" and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. CAPC recognizes that communities are able to identify and respond to the needs of their children and so each project has been developed to meet the needs of their community. There are fourteen CAPC projects in Manitoba, all sharing the same goal: to enhance the well being of children aged 0—6 years old, living in conditions of risk.

### Provincial CAPC Project 2013/14 Outcomes:

#### Counselling / Support Groups:

420 Counselling sessions were provided to 273 children  
911 children attended 373 support groups  
99% of caregivers were satisfied with the resources available  
94% of caregivers reported the program helped their children understand how to be safe

#### Playgroups

1331 children and caregivers attended 734 playgroups  
90% of caregivers feel their children have learned more about respectful behaviour and interactions  
90% agreed their children are more comfortable about other/new people  
95% feel they can communicate better with their children

#### Parenting Programs

300 parenting sessions were provided to 255 caregivers  
1060 counselling sessions were provided to 337 clients  
95% reported learning about healthy relationships  
97% agreed they are dealing better with day to day life  
95% are more aware of the need to safety plan  
97% feel they are making better choices

*"I've never seen my child laugh so much before."*  
- Shelter Client  
Excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014

*"I like it here because no one is shouting."*  
- from a child  
Excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014

### Continued Chairs Report...

mean living in poverty and being alone to raise her family. This is the case for almost all of the women coming to our shelters as the huge majority will be living on social assistance, whether or not they had assets when they left home. The legal system often places women in a position of not being able to access what is rightfully hers as she is barred from using legal aid if family assets and income are too high and cannot afford a lawyer as she often has no access to the family assets.

These societal issues are ones we try to work on with our united and collective voice around the MAWS table.

We are grateful to all of our donors and funders for their support of our association and of women and children living with abuse.

I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Deena Brock, our MAWS co-ordinator, for her support and work she has accomplished over the last year. Finally I want to congratulate all of the shelter directors and their staff for all they have done over the past year to make life better for the women we serve.

Karen Peto

### WHO IS MAWS?

In the 1980's, women's shelters in Manitoba began to work together to provide support, training, information and improved services for clients.

The organization incorporated in 1991 as The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. Membership includes nine provincially funded women's shelters and six Affiliate Members all tirelessly working to supporting victims of family violence. MAWS members are dedicated to advancing and maintaining the well being of women and children in abusive situations.

### MAWS EXECUTIVE

Co-Chairs:  
Karen Peto / Sharon Miller  
Treasurer: Anna Pazdzierski  
Secretary: Kim Hickeys  
Staff - Provincial Coordinator,  
Deena Brock

## PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS REPORT 2013-2014

By Deena Brock

Our national voice flows from the Canadian Network of Women's Shelter and Transition Houses (CNWSTH) [www.endvaw.ca](http://www.endvaw.ca), which MAWS is a founding member. CNWSTH has been busy this past year with a number of projects but one of significant interest was the National Data Count. The goal was to gather useable data that was relevant to the needs of the shelters as well as informing the public about life in a shelter. The data count included domestic violence and second stage shelters across Canada resulting in a report called "Shelter Voices" distributed in March 2014. To view this report and the Manitoba edition of "Shelter Voices" visit [www.maws.mb.ca](http://www.maws.mb.ca).

The Access to Justice training was implemented in the province in September 2013 in Brandon and Thompson and it was open to agencies working with aboriginal women in the legal system. This training funded by the Department of Justice Canada and administered jointly through YWCA Canada and MAWS was developed for Manitoba by Janine Seymour a Winnipeg based lawyer. Delivery of the workshops was facilitated by the YWCA in Brandon and Thompson utilizing local Lawyers and Crown Attorneys.

One goal of MAWS is to promote best practices for shelters; with that in mind we are developing a standardized orientation manual for shelter staff. New staff will benefit from having a resource to review during training. Working in a shelter means being able to wear many hats and taking the word multitasking to a new level. Being thrust into a position where the safety of women and children is your priority can be daunting. Having answers to questions at your fingertips may help to alleviate some of the anxiety when working by yourself, especially during that first shift.

Another long term project that is in development is a standardized counselling manual for Manitoba Shelters. A masters student from the University of Manitoba has been working on this in collaboration with MAWS and shelter staff. The counselling process has been broken down into subjects by weeks to align with the time a client could utilize shelter services.

Continued next page...

## SHELTER VOICES CANADA 2014

"On one day, 242 shelters in Canada helped 4,178 women and 2,490 children. Although not all shelters record this information, of the women helped, 116 were known to be pregnant; 184 were known to have been threatened by a gun".

### IF YOU WERE ABLE TO CHANGE ONE THING

Shelter staff were asked if they were able to change one thing that would make things better for abused women and their children what would it be?

- Affordable and safe housing
- Comprehensive and promptly responsive legal system
- Income and social support
- Interconnected and continuous services

*"Greater financial support from social services so women are not choosing between a life with violence or a life in poverty."*

*"Immediate court decisions that would allow moms to start rebuilding their lives".*

*"Recent immigration changes (Bill C-38), disadvantages immigrant women who are victims of abuse—they are doubly victimized."*

*"Need for greater education within schools as violence starts earlier and earlier."*

*"Don't give up on us because so many of us have already given up on ourselves."*

*"I need you, please don't give up on me."*

*"I came here a caterpillar and left a butterfly. Thank you for your help and support. I couldn't have done it without you."*

*- Shelter Clients from across Canada*

## SHELTER STATISTICS

- In the 2013—2014 year MAWS member shelters provided 33,369 bed nights to clients and their children
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 1035 clients and 1060 children who accessed shelter services as residential clients
- Of these clients, the average stay was 10 nights and clients attended an average of 7 counseling sessions
- Of the residential clients 57 adults and 97 children resided after leaving shelter in Interim Housing units for a total of 14,935 bednights
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 214 clients and 26 children who accessed shelter services as non residential clients
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 226 clients and 33 children who accessed shelter services as follow-up clients
- MAWS member shelters attended to 7190 crisis line calls

Notes: numbers do not include second stage shelter statistics (Alpha House and Bravestone Centre).  
Numbers include nine DV shelters and the Men's Resource Centre, but do not include Osborne House  
Not all shelters have Interim Housing

### 3 most critical issues for shelters workers in Manitoba (in no order)

- Concern over the inability to effectively address the increasingly complex issues facing clients
- Lack of resources for staff development
- Feeling of not being able to affect the systemic causes of the issues facing clients

Excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014

## SHELTER VOICES MANITOBA 2014

"On one day in November in Manitoba, shelters helped 112 women and 75 children". (9 out of 12 shelters participated).

Not all shelters collected this data but we do know that throughout this day, seven women and children were threatened with a gun.

Six pregnant women received service on this day.

Excerpts from Shelter Voices Manitoba 2014

### IF YOU WERE ABLE TO CHANGE ONE THING

Shelter staff were asked if they were able to change one thing that would make things better for abused women and their children what would it be?

"To have more affordable housing available".

"Further support for clients when leaving shelter."

"Raise the rate for those on social assistance."

"Safe, suitable and affordable housing."

"Money to offer more in house programming to all our clients and children to assist with ensuring their success upon leaving our shelters."

"Campaigns focusing on men's role in domestic violence and what men can do to stop gender violence."

"To have more second stage housing."

"More awareness that it takes a long time for families to heal and resources should reflect this."

- Shelter Staff

Excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014

"It's so hard to watch how the system wears women down, especially when they have so many barriers, that they want to give up. That's why we care so much because every women should feel like she has a chance to make it."

- Shelter Staff

Excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014

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## MEMBER SHELTERS

AGAPE HOUSE  
(Eastman Crisis Centre)  
Steinbach, MB 204-326.6062

AURORA HOUSE  
(The Pas Committee for Women in  
Crisis) The Pas, MB 204.623.7427

GENESIS HOUSE  
(South Central Committee on Fam-  
ily Violence) Winkler, MB  
204.325.9957

IKWE-WIDDJITWIN  
Winnipeg, MB 204.987.2780

NOVA HOUSE  
Selkirk, MB 204.482.7882

PARKLAND CRISIS CENTRE  
Dauphin, MB 204.622.4626

PORTAGE FAMILY ABUSE PREVEN-  
TION CENTRE  
Portage la Prairie, MB  
204.239.5234

THOMPSON CRISIS CENTRE  
Thompson, MB 204.677.9668

YWCA WESTMAN WOMEN'S  
SHELTER- Brandon, MB  
204.727.3644



## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

### Second Stage Housing

ALPHA HOUSE INC.  
Winnipeg, MB 204.982.2011

BRAVESTONE CENTRE INC.  
(formerly WISH INC.)  
Winnipeg, MB 204.275.2600

### Resource Centres

FORT GARRY WOMEN'S RE-  
SOURCE CENTRE  
Winnipeg, MB 204.477.1123

INTERLAKE WOMEN'S RESOURCE  
CENTRE- Gimli, MB 204.642.8264

LAKESHORE WOMEN'S RESOURCE  
CENTRE—Ashern, MB  
204.768.3016

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE  
Flin Flon, MB 204.681.3105

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

The work of our members is often done quietly and behind the scenes, involving numerous hours and dedication. As a secondary witness to the clients victimization, shelter workers can suffer vicarious trauma and they can even be on the receiving end of verbal and physical abuse from the clients themselves. It's a demanding and often frustrating job but the reward is knowing that they are helping clients make positive change in their lives.

If you would like to know more about the work of our members, talk to the Executive Directors. Shelters appreciate your desire to help by donating time, money or items that our clients need. These small things can make big changes in the lives of clients. Please call first to discuss your ideas with the Executive Directors.

## Continued Provincial Coordinators Report...

Over this past year I have had the pleasure of being part of a group of like minded agencies collaborating with the Manitoba Status of Women to create the family violence awareness material for the 2014 Campaign. This material, supplemented with a training day will be released this November to support the message.

This has been a busy year with administrative tasks and long term projects, but with the support of the board of directors it has proceeded smoothly. I would like to thank all our members and especially Karen Peto Co-Chair, who maintained continuity over the last two years.  
Deena Brock

*"It is powerful when women find their voice and learn to stand up for themselves. While working with the women we also learn. It is nice to see women grow with a little encouragement and support."*

*- excerpt from Shelter Voices 2014*

## MAWS GOALS

- To provide a unified voice for women and children who have experienced violence
- To unite Manitoba shelters and provide a central body to facilitate communications
- To foster networking and information sharing among shelters and between other agencies that work to eliminate all forms of violence
- To assist in acquiring resources for member shelters
- To promote public education around violence against women and children
- To promote best practices among member shelters
- To develop and promote provincial standards for all shelters
- To foster professional development within Manitoba shelters