



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

# Annual Report

## 2019-2020

## INTRODUCTION

### Mission Statement

MAWS provides leadership and support for organizations working with those experiencing abuse, by: identifying and addressing common areas of need, strengthening standard practices, increasing public awareness of domestic abuse.

### History

It all started in 1988 when four executive directors had a meeting. From that point on women's shelters in Manitoba began to work together to provide support, training and information to improve services for clients.

In 1991 Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) was incorporated and received charity status in 2007. Membership now includes the ten provincially funded women's shelters and eleven Affiliate members of MAWS.

MAWS members are dedicated to advancing and maintaining the well being of women and children in abusive situations.

### Goals

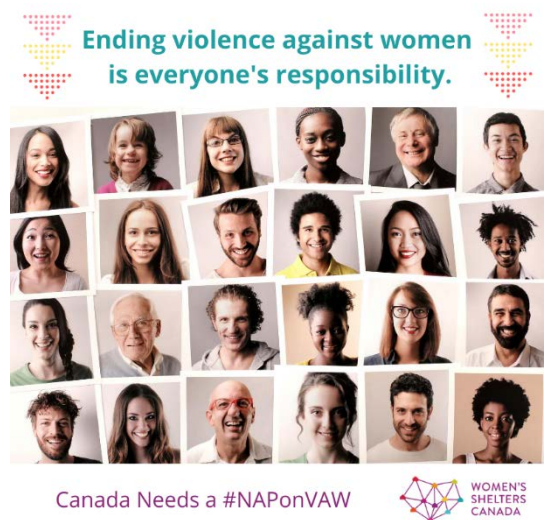
- To provide a unified voice for women and children who have experienced violence.
- To unite Manitoba shelters and provide a central body to facilitate communication.
- To foster networking and information sharing among shelters and between other agencies that work to eliminate all forms of violence.
- To assist in acquiring resources from members.
- 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.

### Women's Shelters Canada (WSC)

MAWS is proud to be a founding member of WSC. Through the dedicated work of the Executive Director Lise Martin, WSC has grown to provide support to the provincial and territorial organizations as well as the many shelters across Canada. One of the biggest endeavours so far is the call for a [National Action Plan on Violence Against Women](#), which we enthusiastically support.

Another large project was the creation of a website which is for women experiencing abuse to be able to search for a safe shelter anywhere in Canada: [Sheltersafe.ca](#).

There are too many projects to list so please take a moment and visit [WSC](#) to see it all.



## CO-CHAIRS REPORT 2019-2020

*Co-Chairs: Marcie Wood, Tracy Whitby and Kim Fontaine*

The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters is comprised of 10 shelters that are committed to providing essential services through residential and outreach programs. Shelters serve a diverse population that is frequently high need and vulnerable individuals and families. The uniqueness of our regions contributes to the differences in how we serve our communities, however, we all work together to provide a safe haven for all people in Manitoba who have experienced domestic and family violence.

MAWS plays a key role in offering connection, support and information to all ten shelters in the province. Each member has unique gifts to share and it is wonderful to see us working together for the betterment of MAWS and the provincial shelter system as a whole. MAWS is in the midst of reinventing itself and learning how it can best support the teams of each provincial shelter.

MAWS continues to work collaboratively with our community stakeholders' to enhance our reach and build capacity within Manitoba. We have welcomed new affiliate members, successfully applied for new grants, enlisted new supports and more. The project, "Transforming Together: Re-envisioning Family Violence in Manitoba", supported by WAGE Canada, has broadened the capacity of MAWS to engage with partners to support the system change work that is required to best serve Manitobans. This work has been spearheaded by a GBV Coalition that will determine a coordinated cross-sectoral approach to address gendered violence in our province. MAWS will support this important work as a backbone organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to formally thank Deena Brock for her dedication and commitment to MAWS and each of our shelters. We truly appreciate all of her hard work and tireless hours spent going the extra mile to ensure we are all well served. Her dedication shines through and we are fortunate to have her supporting us.

### **Board of Directors**

Tracy Whitby, Executive Director Agape House  
Dawna Pritchard, Executive Director Aurora House  
Ang Braun, Executive Director Genesis House  
Kim Fontaine, Executive Director Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin  
Viktoria Westgate, Executive Director Nova House  
Kari Prawdzik, Executive Director Parkland Crisis Centre  
Kim Lavallee, Executive Director Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre  
Carrie Stockburn, Executive Director Thompson Crisis Centre

Heather Symbalysty, Executive Director YWCA Westman Women's Shelter

Marcie Wood, Executive Director Willow Place

### **Staff**

Deena Brock, Provincial Coordinator

### **WAGE Grant**

Lesley Lindberg, Project Manager

Colleen Sym, Project Specialist

### **Training Grants**

Corrie Monk, Training Specialist

Deb Chaboyer, Training Specialist

## PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATORS REPORT 2019-2020

*By Deena Brock*

The definition of “collaboration” in healthcare is “the act of working together with other people or organizations to create or achieve something” (Cambridge Dictionary). This fits with the overarching goal of MAWS to achieve a violence free society. Through collaboration with its diverse membership and relationships, the association has the unique ability to look at family violence services in Manitoba through a number of different lenses knowing that all of these views are essential to eliminating violence and responding to those who experience it. MAWS’ reach, through its members to interrelated agencies and people with lived experience, helps to provide the very best possible services to residents of Manitoba.

In August 2019, MAWS initiated the Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) grant, Transforming Together; A Project to Re-envision Family Violence Services in Manitoba, with the hiring of Lesley Lindberg as Project Manager and Colleen Sym as Project Specialist. The first goal of the project relates to building strong governance. Over the past year, they have completed a “Guide to Governance of Boards”, specific to family violence non-profit boards of directors, and are in the process of building an online training package that will be available to members and the public for a nominal fee.

The second goal of the project, the systems planning stakeholder meetings, was put on hold due to the pandemic, but by utilizing the capabilities of the world wide web, we will begin a pilot project in Brandon in September 2020. The pilot project will involve the YWCA Westman Women’s Shelter and The Women’s Resource Centre – Brandon and will utilize an online platform called Howspace to coordinate and analyze data. By using Howspace in conjunction with Zoom, we will be able to implement virtual stakeholder meetings and planning sessions.

The third goal of the grant is to build the capacity of MAWS and to this end, with the generous help of Health in Common, MAWS engaged in a strategic planning event and adopted an updated mission statement. The next steps will involve a review of the membership structure, operational improvements to enhance MAWS sustainability and stronger representation of the family violence sector. As part of the capacity building project, we want to understand the needs of the agencies working with family violence victims and survivors.

Through a combination of grants from the Winnipeg Foundation and Thomas Sill Foundation, MAWS initiated a training project to provide new resources for staff working with family violence. This project allowed us to hire two training developers (Deb Chaboyer and Corrie Monk) who are building online training modules for family and intimate partner violence workers. The goal is to provide staff with the necessary knowledge and tools to help them safely and effectively adapt to the changing needs of victims and survivors in Manitoba.

This past year, MAWS had the pleasure of welcoming three new Affiliate members, YWCA Thompson, Elmwood Community Resource Centre and Chez Rachel. We’d like to encourage other organizations in the field to join MAWS to share resources and contribute their wisdom.

The MAWS website has a new home thanks to [www.SWD.ca](http://www.SWD.ca) in Winnipeg. The board worked hard to get a site that would function for all of our members. Please take a moment and visit the website. As MAWS grows, the site will become home to more information and provide additional resources and support to our members. The Transforming Together project information can be accessed under the “About” page. In the near future, we will be adding a Knowledge Exchange that will also include “members only” pages to house online resources and training modules for family violence workers.

## TRANSFORMING TOGETHER: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MAWS' "Transforming Together – A Project to Re-envision Family Violence" is intended to build the capacity of the domestic violence system in Manitoba. It is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, a department succeeding Status of Women Canada. The project started up in the early fall of 2019 staffed by Lesley Lindberg and Colleen Sym.

At that time, no one anticipated the upheaval that would be caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. From training delivery to partnership development and community planning, the project has had to re-think its approach to achieving its outcomes and move all elements of the project to on-line platforms. It has taken some time to adjust. In the long run, however, this is likely to improve the sustainability of the products (training, planning processes and other system supports developed and offered by MAWS) while also increasing access to them regardless of where an individual or organization might be in the province.

In furtherance of the first objective of the project, strong governance, an electronic governance manual has been developed and distributed to MAWS members. Under development is a MAWS Learning Portal which will offer virtual training support with both self-directed and facilitated discussion options for the governance training. With regard to the second objective of the project, coordinated planning, a pilot system planning process is beginning in Brandon and surrounding area. A leadership group has been established, initial discussions have occurred, the framework and tools for the process have been outlined and a timetable established. The virtual platform tools are in place. The HelpSeeker (HS) app has rolled out province-wide to support service mapping and continued efforts by MAWS, End Homelessness Winnipeg and HS are underway to encourage uptake.

For the third objective of the project, building the capacity and positioning of MAWS to take on backbone support role for DV system, MAWS is implementing a five-point plan.

### *Bringing people together*

- Monthly stakeholder meetings
- Customized process for virtual community planning
- Homelessness sector and the DV/FV sector working in partnership

### *Sharing resources*

- Core Competency framework to guide training development and performance management within shelters (developed in concert with Willow Place). The framework has potential application to other DV agencies.
- Training Needs Assessment Surveys

### *Taking action/Improving services*

- Participate in the First Nations Domestic Violence Task Force and the Community Wellness Committee for the First Nations COVID-19 Response Plan

### *Nations COVID-19 Response Plan*

- Developed and implemented the DV Shelter Emergency Response Plan
- Developed communication bulletins and media releases to support service awareness during the pandemic.
- Rolled out the HelpSeeker app across Manitoba in partnership with End Homelessness Winnipeg.

### *Measuring performance*

- Supporting the finalization of the shelter logic model and evaluation framework

For MAWS to move into a backbone organization role, stakeholder discussions will be necessary. The upcoming monthly cross sector stakeholder meetings will be key in building the collaboration and relationship necessary to continue to move forward in year two of the project.

## MANITOBA FAMILY VIOLENCE EMERGENCY SHELTER STATISTICS

The family violence shelters are funded by the Manitoba Provincial Government and the following are statistics provided for 2019 – 2020 accumulated from Agape House, Aurora House, Genesis House, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, Nova House, Parkland Crisis Centre, Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre, Thompson Crisis Centre, Willow Place and YWCA Westman Women's Shelter.

Statistics are used to validate the work that shelters provide and justify the needs of women and children who are fleeing violence.

- ✓ 16,697 crisis line calls relating to domestic and family violence,
- ✓ 41,052 bednights provided to adults and their children in shelter and interim housing,
- ✓ 1,489 adults and 1,158 children accessed safe shelter and programming as residential clients,
- ✓ the average length stay in shelter was 12 nights,
- ✓ Of the residential clients 37 adults and 55 children continued to receive services and shelter by residing in Interim Housing\* units after leaving shelter for an additional total of 11,277 bednights,
- ✓ 327 adults and 47 children accessed Non-Residential programming,
- ✓ 211 adults and 65 children accessed Follow-Up programming,
- ✓ 10,798 counselling sessions were provided.

*Notes: \*only 6 shelters provide Interim Housing*

*Data provided by FVPP (Family Violence Prevention Program)*

The staff and volunteers work tirelessly, often unrecognized, assisting victims and survivors of domestic and family violence.

### What is the difference between sex and gender

**Sex** refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define males, females and intersex persons.

**Gender** refers to the roles and behaviours that society associates with being female or male. Rigid gender norms can result in stereotyping and curb our expectations of both women and men. A society's understanding of gender changes over time and varies from culture to culture. — *Status of Women Canada*

#### **GBV+**

Want to learn more about GBV+? Visit this federal government link and take the course.

<https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acs/index-en.html>



## MEET OUR MEMBERS

<p>AGAPE HOUSE Steinbach, MB 204-326.6062</p>		<p>ALPHA HOUSE INC. Winnipeg, MB 204.982.2011</p>	
<p>AURORA The Pas, MB 204.623.7427</p>		<p>BRAVESTONE CENTRE INC. Winnipeg, MB 204.275.2600</p>	
<p>GENESIS HOUSE Winkler, MB 204.325.9957</p>		<p>CHEZ RACHEL Winnipeg, MB 204.925.2550</p>	
<p>IKWE-WIDDJIITWIN Winnipeg, MB 204.987.2780</p>		<p>CIRCLING BUFFALO The Pas, MB 204.623.3423</p>	
<p>NOVA HOUSE Selkirk, MB 204.482.7882</p>		<p>ELMWOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE Elmwood, MB 204.982.1720</p>	
<p>PARKLAND CRISIS CENTRE Dauphin, MB 204.622.4626</p>		<p>FORT GARRY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE Winnipeg, MB 204.477.1123</p>	
<p>PORTAGE FAMILY ABUSE PREVENTION CENTRE Portage la Prairie, MB 204.239.5234</p>		<p>INTERLAKE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE Gimli, MB 204.642.8264</p>	
<p>THOMPSON CRISIS CENTRE Thompson, MB 204.677.9668</p>		<p>SURVIVOR'S HOPE CRISIS CENTRE Pinawa, MB 204.753.5353</p>	
<p>WILLOW PLACE Winnipeg, MB 204.615.0313</p>		<p>SWAN VALLEY CRISIS CENTRE Swan River, MB 204.734.9368</p>	
<p>YWCA WESTMAN WOMEN'S SHELTER Brandon, MB 204.727.3644</p>		<p>WOMEN'S SAFE HAVEN /RESOURCE SERVICE Flin Flon, MB 204.681.3105</p>	
		<p>YWCA THOMPSON Thompson, MB 204.778.6341</p>	





Poster supplied by Genesis House, Winkler, MB

## **COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAPC) REPORT**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has provided funding to community groups that promote the healthy development of young children from birth to age 6 since 1993. There are approximately 400 CAPC projects serving over 230,000 vulnerable children and parents/caregivers in over 3,000 communities across Canada each year. MAWS became one of these organizations in 1995 and has been fortunate to continue to support shelters in their critical work with young children and caregivers.

### **Provincial CAPC Project 2019/2020 Outcomes**

During 2019/2020 shelters reached out to 691 families who had children between the ages of 0-6 years old. These families contained 691 adults and 867 children.

#### *Playgroups*

2220 children and caregivers attended 903 playgroups,

#### *Counselling / Support Groups*

524 Counselling sessions were provided to 240 children and 266 support groups were conducted with a total of 400 children attending,

#### *Parenting Programs*

982 counselling sessions were provided to 334 parents and 185 parental support groups were provided to 1001 caregivers,

#### *Referrals*

442 referrals were made to benefit mothers and children,

#### *Advocacy*

Shelter staff intervened 184 times to advocate for mothers and children.



Throughout the year many groups, companies and other organizations have generously arranged fundraising events, donated goods and financially contributed to both MAWS.

MAWS would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Podheiser, Canadian Science Centre Social Committee and everyone who has donated through CanadaHelps.ca, United Way, All Charities Campaign, PayPal Giving Fund GiftFunds Canada and Donate a Car. Many individuals have remembered MAWS over the years and sent in cheques.

A special thanks to the following organizations who have helped the shelters make the residential stays a bit better:

- Manitoba Federation of Labour
- Shoobox Project
- Melinda Ives/Discovery Toys
- Chatters Hair Salons in Winnipeg and Brandon

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

**Women and Gender Equality Canada**

**HEALTH  
inCOMMON**

Strengthening Impact through Planning and Evaluation

THE  
THOMAS SILL  
FOUNDATION  
INC

THE  
WINNIPEG  
FOUNDATION   
**For Good. Forever.**



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