




2022-2023


Manitoba Association of  
Women's Shelters Inc.

ANNUAL  
REPORT



*The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. (MAWS) carries out its work on the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

*We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present, and we dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.*



## Our Story

The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. (MAWS) is dedicated to providing a unified voice for those affected by all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) and to supporting Manitoba GBV prevention service providers.

MAWS was formed when family violence (FV) shelters across Manitoba began to work together in the 80s to improve services for those affected by GBV and FV.

Today, MAWS members include all ten provincially funded FV shelters in Manitoba, as well as associate members who work in the GBV prevention sector.

## MAWS Beliefs & Goals

### Our Beliefs:

- Everyone has the right to live violence-free.
- Gender-based, family and domestic violence exist because of inequalities in society.
- Community involvement is essential to address the issue of violence against women and children.
- A network of service providers, in addition to the legal, social, and political structures, is necessary to address violence against women and children.
- Public education is key to addressing issues of violence.
- We can make a difference.

### Our Goals:

- To unite Manitoba shelters and provide a central body to facilitate communication.
- To provide a unified voice for those affected by violence.
- 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 encourage the assistance of other service agencies, voluntary organizations, private industry, and government in addressing issues of violence against women and children.
- To promote public education around family, domestic and gender-based violence.
- To identify and promote best practices among member shelters.
- To develop and promote provincial standards for all Manitoba shelters.
- To foster professional development within Manitoba shelters.



## Our Values & Guiding Principles

### Principles of Harm Reduction

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Harm Reduction:*

- Strengths Based: Focusing on strengths first and foremost, while acknowledging that there are areas of improvement.
- Empowerment: Affirming and supporting those who experience violence where they are at.
- Dignity and Compassion: Allowing those who experience violence to feel that their needs are met without judgment.

### Principles of Trauma Informed Practice

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Trauma Informed Practice:*

- Safety: Includes cultural safety and trauma safety.
- Trust: Developing relationships that foster trust.
- Collaboration: The belief that those who experience violence are experts in their own lives.
- Empowerment: Affirming where those who experience violence are at, and empowering them to make decisions for their own lives.

### Principles of Intersectional Feminist Practice

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Intersectional Feminism:*

- Ensure that services meet the unique needs of those who experience violence and are reflective of their lived experience.
- Acknowledge the multiple identities of service users beyond that of "victim."
- That the work of MAWS is to challenge patriarchal structures and misogyny.

### Principles of Decolonization

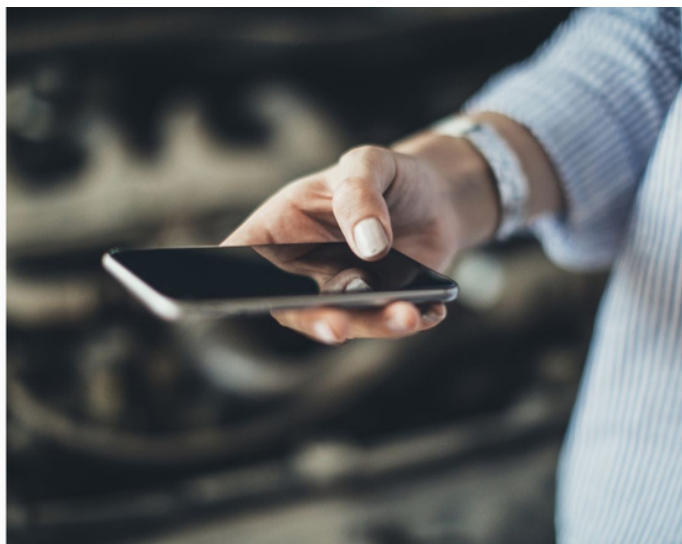
*Values + Beliefs that underpin Decolonized practice – Acknowledge that:*

- The experiences of those who experience violence are framed by settler colonialism and historical trauma.
- The result of settler colonialist policies is violence against Indigenous women, girls and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA community.
- That the work of shelters and MAWS is to be actively anti-racist.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the most under-reported crimes in Canada.

It's on each of us to help reduce GBV in our communities.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, call the provincial Family Violence Crisis & Support Line:  
1-877-977-0007



## Meet The Team

### MAWS Board of Directors

- **Ang Braun, Executive Director**, Genesis House, Winkler (South Central Committee on Family Violence)
- **Jan Damery, Executive Director**, YWCA Westman Women's Shelter, Brandon
- **Kim Fontaine, Executive Director**, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, Winnipeg (*Co-Chair*)
- **Tara Hayes, Executive Director**, Prairie Harbour Inc., Portage La Prairie
- **Kari Prawdzik, Executive Director**, Parkland Crisis Centre, Dauphin
- **Dawna Pritchard, Executive Director**, Aurora House, The Pas (The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis)
- **Helen Trudeau, Executive Director**, Thompson Crisis Centre, Thompson (*Co-Chair*)
- **Viktoria Westgate, Executive Director**, Nova House, Selkirk (*Secretary*)
- **Tracy Whitby, Executive Director**, Agape House, Steinbach (*Treasurer*)
- **Marcie Wood, Executive Director**, Willow Place, Winnipeg (*Co-Chair*)

### Staff

**Deena Brock – Provincial Coordinator**  
deena@maws.mb.ca

**Tsungai (Sue) Muvingi – Associate Provincial Coordinator & HIFIS Database Coordinator**  
sue@maws.mb.ca

**Amrita Chavan – Communications Specialist**  
amrita@maws.mb.ca

**Dr. Amber Merucci – Project Specialist, WAGE Centering the Rights of Women from the Margins.**  
amber@maws.mb.ca

**Dr. Sally Ogoe – Project Specialist, WAGE Transforming Together Project**  
sally@maws.mb.ca

**Anthony Leong – Shelter Support Worker Program Coordinator**  
anthony@maws.mb.ca

**Kevin Kowal – Technical Support**  
**Meaghan Ranseth – Bookkeeper/Administrator**



*March to demand justice for  
Linda Beardy, April 2023*

## Our Full Members & Associate Members

### Full Members

#### Provincial Family Violence Shelters:

- Agape House, Steinbach (Eastman Crisis Centre): 204-326-6062
- Aurora House, The Pas (The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis): 204-623-7427
- Genesis House, Winkler (South Central Committee on Family Violence): 204-325-9957
- Ikwe-Widdjitiwin, Winnipeg: 204-987-2780
- Nova House, Selkirk: 204-482-7882
- Parkland Crisis Centre, Dauphin: 204- 622-4626
- Prairie Harbour Inc., Portage La Prairie: 204-239-5234
- Thompson Crisis Centre, Thompson: 204-677-9668
- Willow Place, Winnipeg: 204-615-0313
- YWCA Westman Women's Shelter, Brandon: 204-727-3644

### Associate Members

#### Second Stage Programs:

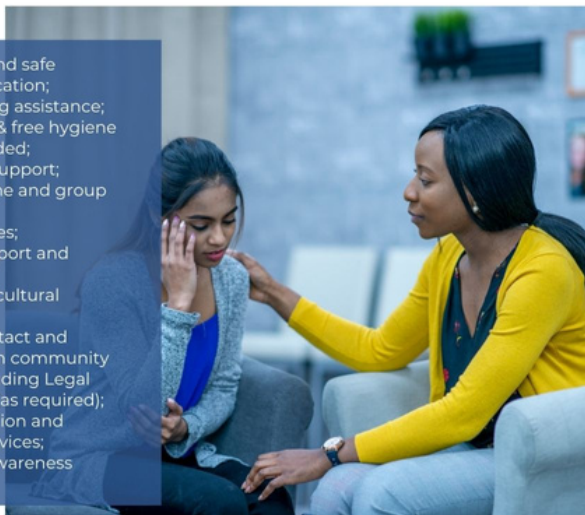
- Alpha House Project, Winnipeg: 204-982-2011
- Bravestone Centre, Winnipeg: 204-275-2600
- Chez Rachel, Winnipeg: 204-925-2550

#### Family Violence Agencies:

- Circling Buffalo, The Pas: 204-779-4318
- Elmwood Community Resource Centre, Winnipeg: 204-982-1720
- Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, Winnipeg: 204-477-1123
- Interlake Women's Resource Centre, Gimli: 204-642-8264
- Manitoba Moon Voices Inc., Winnipeg: 204-942-1828
- MAPS (Men Are Part Of The Solution), Thompson: 204-778-6040
- Survivor's Hope, Pinawa: 204-753-5353
- Swan Valley Crisis Centre, Swan River: 204-734-9368
- Wahbung Abinoojiiag, Winnipeg: 204-925-4610
- Women's Resource Centre, Flin Flon: 204-681-3105

## WHAT SERVICES DO MANITOBA WOMEN'S SHELTERS OFFER?

- Confidential and safe emergency location;
- Safety planning assistance;
- Meals, snacks & free hygiene supplies provided;
- 24-hour staff support;
- Free one-to-one and group counselling;
- Referral services;
- Children's support and counselling;
- Activities and cultural supports
- Advocacy, contact and assistance with community supports, including Legal Aid, E.I.A., etc. (as required);
- Early intervention and prevention services;
- Community awareness resources.





## Message From The Co-Chairs

In 2022-2023, MAWS members began a challenging transition to post-pandemic service delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified staffing challenges and had a devastating effect on Family Violence (FV) shelter operations. MAWS members observed an increasing need for shelter spaces and inclusive services, greater numbers of clients presenting with complex needs, escalating rates of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and a rise in community referrals from aligned sector agencies.

At the same time, the FV sector had also been dealing with systemic issues, including the consequences of Manitoba's historical underfunding of the FV sector, the lack of safe and affordable housing and transition spaces, few safe and affordable transportation options for FV shelters and clients (especially in rural areas), and almost no adequate wraparound resources that bridged gaps in social support delivery, particularly for those living in northern and remote regions. MAWS and MAWS members focused on increased advocacy, outreach, and capacity-building initiatives to form collective solutions and address these urgent systemic issues.

In the past year, MAWS has successfully advocated for greater funding for the provincial FV shelters, investment in training for FV professionals, and sector-wide support for a collective GBV prevention backbone organization in Manitoba. We are appreciative of our renewed, positive relationships with Gender Equality Manitoba, as well as with elected officials and policymakers from all other levels of government, who have met with us and incorporated our insights on GBV prevention and interrelated social issues in their work, including the application of Clare's Law in Manitoba, national firearms legislations, provincial trauma-informed training for law enforcement and justice system professionals, safe affordable housing for those affected by GBV, and appropriate, timely services for children affected by abuse.

Earlier this March, MAWS team and a number of our member FV shelter and agency Executive Directors participated in the Shockproofing Communities National Summit and Lobbying Day on Parliament Hill. The events were hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation and Women's Shelters Canada, and the MAWS team and members were able to take the opportunity to advocate for equitable investments in the Manitoba GBV prevention sector.

Through our participation in local GBV prevention and social justice committees and working groups, MAWS has had the chance to offer insights on building violence-free communities. These partnerships have helped us further our knowledge of trauma-informed, inclusive service delivery, harm reduction, and the important everyday work of anti-racism and decolonization.

Raising awareness of the urgency of GBV prevention and building relationships with aligned sector organizations are central to our advocacy efforts. To this end, MAWS has collaborated on various digital public education initiatives with national organizations like WSC and White Ribbon Canada, as well as with thought leaders and provincial partners, including Community Legal Education Association (CLEA), Clan Mothers Healing Village, People First of Canada, Manitoba Islamic Association, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, and Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE)-Manitoba.

MAWS has reached thousands of Manitobans through our own social media campaigns, monthly e-newsletters, webinars, and outreach on issues such as recognizing and preventing GBV, supporting survivors in trauma-informed ways, providing an understanding of the justice system and survivors' rights, as well as practicing active allyship. MAWS has also had the opportunity to speak extensively with national and provincial media organizations on our GBV prevention advocacy and awareness work, and has highlighted the urgent need for collective action to reduce escalating rates of GBV in Manitoba. Our successful awareness and outreach efforts have helped us add three new associate members, and we would like to welcome Wabwung Abinoonjiag, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. and Men Are Part of the Solution (MAPS) to MAWS!



In addition to helping us form important relationships with community partners and adding to our membership, MAWS' collaborative capacity-building has also helped us provide beginner and advanced GBV prevention and HIFIS database training to FV sector staff. This training development and outreach have been made possible through federal and provincial government funding, and are important first steps in supporting the FV sector through the challenge of a post-pandemic rebuild of services for survivors and victims of Gender-Based Violence.

MAWS' leadership in the areas of advocacy, outreach and public education have helped us emerge as a nationally-recognized thought leader in the GBV prevention sector, and work towards resolving some of the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the FV sector's ability to provide uninterrupted, trauma-informed and inclusive service delivery.

However, the Manitoba FV/GBV sector has been experiencing chronic, long-term underfunding to our life-saving services for far too long, which has resulted in debilitating systemic issues and dangerous silos between FV and aligned social services that should ideally be interconnected and working together to ensure the well-being and safety of all Manitobans. In particular, the lack of safe, affordable, accessible housing, especially for those affected by GBV, inadequate mental health and addictions services, few appropriate services to support children affected by abuse, and in regions like northern Manitoba, the actual lack of other social supportive services combine to widen gaps that leave vulnerable Manitobans struggling to survive.

Gender-Based Violence is one of the root causes of many of the above social issues, such as homelessness. The lack of housing, FV shelter infrastructure, and other supportive services further exacerbates rates of GBV, leading to a vicious cycle of increased vulnerability and danger. The FV sector's lifesaving work is compromised by the gaps in our system; we are losing more women and children to GBV than ever before.



*FV Advocacy on Parliament Hill.  
Left to Right: LP Penner (Survivor's  
Hope Crisis Centre, MB), Amrita  
Chavan (MAWS), Cherie  
Hennessey (Alpha House, MB),  
Member of Parliament Leah  
Gazan, and Kari Prawdzik  
(Parkland Crisis Centre, MB)  
Photo Credit: Muna Jimale*





*A full house at the MAWS 2022 Annual General Meeting last year!  
It was a privilege to meet with stakeholders & community partners and discuss the future of the FV sector in Manitoba.*

These systemic problems need collective solutions. An organization that could unite the entire FV/GBV sector, and advocate with one voice for the unique needs of every survivor and of each diverse GBV prevention service would provide these collective, community-based solutions and minimize the harmful gaps in our interdependent systems. Through community consultations and relationship-building, MAWS is working with other organizations in the Family Violence (FV) sector to pave the way towards a new, collective GBV prevention backbone organization that will bring the entire sector together and empower us to make tangible strides towards ending abuse in Manitoba.

2022-2023 has been an eventful, collaborative year for MAWS. Our advocacy, public education and outreach work this year has made real impacts and positive growth in FV sector operations and practices. We remain passionately committed to ending gender-based violence and supporting victims and survivors of GBV through trauma-informed, inclusive, anti-racist service delivery. We are energized, ready and hopeful for the collective, unified and powerful transformations the coming year will bring, and are looking forward to working with our partners to build a violence-free Manitoba.



**- Kim Fontaine**

Executive Director, Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc., MAWS Co-Chair

**- Helen Trudeau**

Executive Director, Thompson Crisis Centre, MAWS Co-Chair

**- Marcie Wood**

Executive Director, Willow Place Inc., MAWS Co-Chair

## Provincial Coordinator's Report

In the busy, post-pandemic landscape of 2022-2023, MAWS has been focused on systems change, to help the Manitoba Family Violence (FV)/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention sector recover from the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our three goals to facilitate the transformation of the FV/GBV sector included: (a) building community partnerships; (b) providing anti-violence education; and, (c) strengthening the capacity of the FV/GBV system.

Grants like the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, provided by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), have helped us to continue our work towards these goals by enabling us to add new staff who are specialists in violence prevention and gender justice. Our team members have strengthened MAWS' recognition as a thought leader in GBV prevention in the Canadian Prairies and across the country.

In March 2023, we completed our four-year, federally-funded systems change project, "Transforming Together: A Project to Re-envision Family Violence Services in Manitoba" (TT – 2019-2023). We have developed TT's Final Report, with our findings and recommendations on transforming the Manitoba FV/GBV sector. We are grateful to our many community partners who engaged with us on how to build a trauma-informed, survivor-and human rights-centered GBV prevention system. The MAWS team would also like to thank WAGE for their support of the project. The TT Final Report and Recommendations can be found on our [website](#).

Our systems change work continues with our second federally-funded project, "Centering the Rights of Women from the Margins: Delivering low barrier and non-discriminatory GBV services" (GBV project). Launched on Human Rights Day in 2021, the GBV project will develop promising practices that advance inclusive policies, and build networks and collaboration between the FV and aligned sectors to accelerate systemic change that reflects survivors' right to safety.

Transforming systems is impossible without the support and engagement of community partnerships. MAWS has built strong working relationships with organizations at the national, provincial, municipal and local level, to achieve a goal that is common to all: Ending GBV at every level of society in Canada.



At the national level, MAWS sits on the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) Board of Directors and Advisory Council, as well as on committees convened by the national Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC). We are a committed partner of the Canada-wide Alliance Against Violence and Adversity (AVA), which seeks to bridge the gaps between academia and frontline anti-violence organizations. As participants of various conferences and summits, like the Canadian Women's Foundation Shockproofing Communities Summit in Ottawa, the MAWS team has had the opportunity to make valuable connections and learn from thought leaders across the country.

Provincially, MAWS has been part of the University of Manitoba COVID-19 Committee, the Manitoba CAPC Coalition, and the Government of Manitoba's Clare's Law Working Group. The MAWS team has provided consistent feedback to the Manitoba Government regarding the application of Clare's Law in the province, ensuring that the rights and needs of victim-survivors of GBV are centered, and that they are provided with trauma-informed disclosure and support services. We continue to be involved in the Street Health Survey (SHS) Gender and Sexual Orientation Sub-Report Research Team, and are also part of the Collaboration Table of members providing feedback to the Manitoba Family Resolution Service (FRS), to improve the accessibility and quality of resources for families who are navigating the separation process.

At the municipal and local level, MAWS has engaged with the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative, and is part of the City of Winnipeg MMIWG2S+ Working Group. MAWS supports FV and aligned sector organizations throughout the province – and we would like to highlight the work of our members, associate members, and local community partners who have helped us grow and advance anti-violence work in Manitoba.

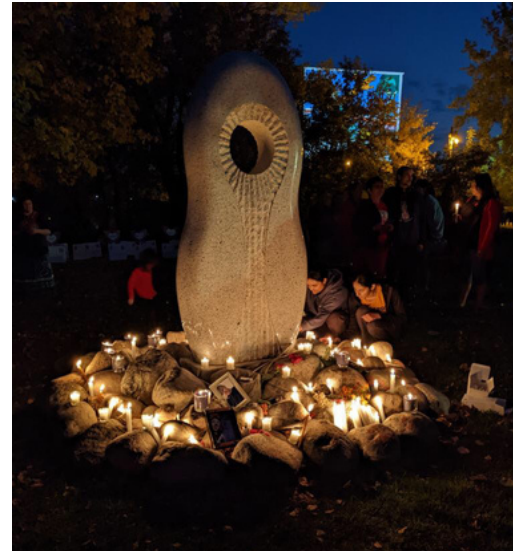
Along with building community partnerships, our anti-violence work has involved education, awareness, and training initiatives. We would like to focus on two crucial advanced training initiatives that MAWS launched in the past year: (a) The free “Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use: Training for Professionals Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence” (MHSU) course, developed in partnership with Dr. Kendra Nixon (RESOLVE Manitoba) and Dr. Kathy Levine (University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work), and with the support of the Government of Manitoba; (b) The Shelter Support Worker Micro-Credential Program (SSW), developed in partnership with Red River College Polytech and the Manitoba Gender-Based Violence Program (GBVP).

Our team would like to add a big thank you to the Working Groups and all our partners on these two projects – it has been a privilege to develop these initiatives with you!

A full list of all courses available on our website's [Training portal](#) is included in this Annual Report, and can be accessed by all MAWS members for free. We encourage Manitobans from all professional backgrounds to explore them and learn more about how to support victim-survivors of abuse and help end GBV.

Our training development has been paired with extensive public education and awareness campaigns throughout the year. MAWS partnered with White Ribbon Canada and Women Shelters' Canada on their “Day After Day” and “More Than” digital awareness campaigns respectively, engaging thousands of Manitobans on the important issues of GBV prevention and survivor support. We would like to thank the Winnipeg Free Press for amplifying our “More Than” campaign throughout the province.

We were so thrilled to have had the opportunity to partner with McNally Robinson Booksellers (Manitoba) for a social media Books Giveaway campaign during the international 16 Days of Activism Against GBV (16Days) from November 25 to December 10. Hundreds of Manitobans shared our “16Days-16Ways To End GBV” content, and we gave away 12 books by internationally acclaimed authors, donated by McNally Robinson, to the winners of our campaign!



*MAWS attended the MMIWG2S+ vigil last October, at The Forks, Winnipeg*



As November is also Domestic Violence/Abuse Prevention Month, MAWS hosted our free, publicly-accessible virtual “Film Fest,” with screenings of films that shone a light on the devastating effects of abuse, colonization, and intergenerational trauma.

In March 2023, MAWS was proud to launch a new International Women’s Day (IWD) initiative: The MAWS virtual “[Art Gallery](#),” featuring submissions of art and poetry from women across Manitoba who have been affected by GBV. The most-voted winning submission for our IWD2023 Art & Poetry Contest was Ruth Morris’ poem “I am The Phoenix.” Ruth’s poem, and all other contest entries can be found on our website’s Art Gallery page, which is accepting submissions of creative work all year-round.

One of the crucial ways we are helping to reduce GBV is by supporting the life-saving work of already-existing anti-violence organizations – like the provincially funded FV shelters and agencies.

Through the development of initiatives on our website like a sector-wide [Jobs Application Pool](#), an online knowledge exchange [Resource Centre](#), the MAWS team is connecting FV organizations to trained professionals who can bolster staffing challenges, and to provincial, national and international research, publications and resources.

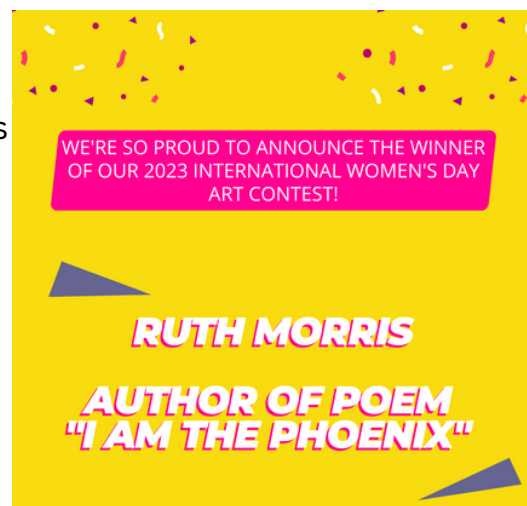
Our support work is often hands-on: We have had the pleasure of welcoming new EDs to the MAWS Board and assisting them with getting settled in their new leadership roles at various FV shelters. We have provided consistent in-person staff training for the HIFIS database. Additionally, to help FV shelters navigate HR-related processes, we have facilitated a partnership with a Human Resources services organization.

From supporting the FV shelters and agencies, to providing training, outreach, advocacy, and systems transformation assistance, MAWS has had a fulfilling year of empowering its members and partners in their frontline work, and of advancing our impact in the provincial and national anti-violence sectors.

2022-2023 has been a year of great internal and external changes – and 2023-24 is already bringing its own transformations. Internally, MAWS Provincial Coordinator Deena Brock is transitioning out of her role, and MAWS will also be saying goodbye to valued team member Amrita Chavan (Communications Specialist). Deena and Amrita’s contributions to MAWS have helped us advance our organization’s mission. They will be missed, and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.

As part of our efforts to move forward with our vision and goals, the MAWS Board of Directors has appointed Tsungai (Sue) Muvingi as Associate Provincial Coordinator. We’re thrilled to be working with Sue, who will take over the Provincial Coordinator role. Under her leadership and with the support of the MAWS Board, members and the MAWS team, we are confident that MAWS will continue to build community partnerships, add to its public education initiatives, strengthen the capacity of the FV/GBV sector, and advocate for survivor-centred solutions to end GBV.

- **Deena Brock**, Provincial Coordinator, MAWS
- **Tsungai (Sue) Muvingi**, Associate Provincial Coordinator, MAWS



# The Year In Review

Here's what we've accomplished and engaged in over 2022-2023:

- **New Staff:** We welcomed a new staff member to the MAWS Team: Meaghan Ranseth, our Bookkeeper/Administrator!
- **Support & Capacity-Building:**
  - MAWS staff have responded to approximately 3 crisis calls per month.
  - MAWS staff have created a “knowledge exchange” or online library of resources for Family Violence (FV) professionals and organizations, available on our website.
  - We have developed a new “Jobs Application Pool” database on our website. Anyone looking to work in the FV sector can now post their résumé on the jobs database, and these applicant résumés are forwarded to our members. MAWS members can then choose to reach out to qualified applicants. MAWS members can also send MAWS their job postings, which we can post on the website and in the newsletter.
  - We continue to provide ongoing HIFIS training, as well as advocacy, policy development, capacity-building and communications support to all our members and associate members.
  - The MAWS Team hosted a visioning session using graphic facilitation, and initiated discussions between provincially funded FV organizations to explore the development of a Manitoba GBV collective impact backbone organization that will bring together all service providers in this field in Manitoba to develop collaborative client-centered experiences.
- **Stakeholder Outreach & Community Development:**
  - MAWS staff met with stakeholders from the FV and aligned sector to discuss system gaps and solutions. These organizations include: Inclusion Winnipeg, The Manitoba Islamic Association, Healthy Muslim Families, Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, People First of Canada, and Clan Mother's Healing Village.
  - We were honoured to participate in a sharing circle hosted by Circling Buffalo.
  - We are building an important working relationship with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), and hospital social workers.
  - We continue to be involved in the Manitoba Coalition of Community Action Program for Children.
  - MAWS staff met with representatives from the office of the Hon. Marcie Ien, federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality Canada, Gender Equality Manitoba, and other leaders and policymakers at all levels of government, regarding the needs of the Manitoba GBV prevention sector.





- **Research:**

- MAWS Staff participated quarterly in research sessions with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC), Western University – Recognizing Critical Expertise in Gender-Based Violence Work.
- We participated in the “COVID-19 and the Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Service Providers” project with the Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) at University of Manitoba.
- MAWS staff are engaging with the research team for “Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings,” and we are also part of the Manitoba Community of Practice (CoP) at RESOLVE UM, and the National CoP through CREVAWC.
- The MAWS team are participants in the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) focus group to discuss their draft Gender-based Violence Against Racialized Migrant Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse Peoples with Disabilities & Deaf Peoples Toolkit.
- We continue to be involved in the Street Health Survey (SHS) Gender and Sexual Orientation Sub-Report Research Team.
- MAWS is also part of the Collaboration Table of members providing feedback to the Manitoba Family Resolution Service (FRS), to improve the accessibility and quality of resources for families. Our feedback has been essential in developing “For the Sake of the Children,” an online supportive information program to help parents navigate and support children’s legal and emotional needs during the separation process.

- **Training:**

- **Courses currently available:** We have added **ten** new online courses to our website; these are already available to Family Violence (FV) staff across the province and to MAWS members for free. The courses include: (a) Transforming Together Board Governance Course; (b) Islamophobia; (c) Ethics for Helping Professionals; (d) The Impact of Domestic Violence on Mother-Child relationships; (e) Supporting Muslim Women in Intimate Partner and Family Violence Shelters; (f) Cultural Humility; (g) Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care; (h) Emotional Intelligence and Counselling Strategies; (i) Stress Training; (j) Indigenous Perspectives; (k) Vicarious Trauma, Compassion Fatigue and Burnout; and (l) Supporting Clients with Traumatic Brain Injuries from Intimate Partner Violence. For a full list of available courses on the MAWS website, follow this link: <https://maws.mb.ca/courses-available-now/>
- We aim to release more courses over the course of this year.
- **New advanced course now available: “Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use: Training for Professionals Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence”:** MAWS has worked with subject matter experts Dr. Kendra Nixon of the University of Manitoba’s Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and Dr. Kathryn Levine of the UM Faculty of Social Work to develop this new, advanced mental health and substance use dependence training program for FV professionals. We thank the Government of Manitoba for their support of this initiative. The course is available to everyone for free on the MAWS website.
- **The Shelter Support Worker Micro-Credential Program (SSW):** The part-time SSW pilot program was developed in partnership with Red River College Polytech and the Manitoba Gender-Based Violence Program (GBVP), and aimed to resolve some of the historical staffing and training challenges within the FV and homeless sectors. In collaboration with our partners, MAWS co-hosted a Convocation ceremony for the first batch of successful graduates from this micro-credential program! We're also thrilled to announce that this micro-credential program will be offered once more in the fall of 2023!

- **Working with Disclosures of Childhood Sexual Assault:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Violence (FV) staff observed increasing numbers of childhood sexual assault. To help FV workers support their clients better, MAWS worked with the Heartwood Healing Centre to create training for FV shelters and agency staff that would help them support and stabilize clients who have been waiting for long-term counselling. This training has been adapted and is available through our online training site as a self-directed course. We would like to thank the Canadian Women's Foundation and Women & Gender Equality Canada for funding this project.

- **Communications:**

- **Public education and Social Media:** Consistent social media posting has helped us grow our digital audience to over 1,000 Facebook followers! We have a new Instagram page with nearly 800 followers and our Twitter/"X" content is frequently shared by national and international organizations.
- **Digital awareness campaigns:** MAWS staff created promotional content for the following digital initiatives:
  - "Day After Day" Campaign, in partnership with White Ribbon Canada (2022);
  - "More Than" Campaign, in partnership with Women's Shelters Canada (2022), and amplified by the Winnipeg Free Press in Manitoba;
  - "Virtual Film Fest" to commemorate the November 2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with screenings of five films related to GBV prevention and the healing of intergenerational trauma;
  - "16Days-16Ways Against GBV" social media campaign and Books Giveaway contest (in partnership with McNally Robnson Booksellers), from Nov 25 to Dec 10, 2022. Our campaign was recognized by the global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV organization;
  - Black History Month awareness for Feb 2023;
  - International Women's Day Poetry and Art Contest and Launch of the new MAWS Virtual Art Gallery (March 2023);
  - "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" (April 2023).

November is Family Violence/Abuse Prevention Month

**THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS PRESENTS**

**OUR NOVEMBER 2022 FILM FESTIVAL**



**Dates for our virtual Film Screenings:**

- Nov 4, 2022, Fri
- Nov 10, 2022, Thu
- Nov 18, 2022, Fri
- Nov 25, 2022, Fri

There is no registration for this event. Follow this link to join the film screening: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85006202834>

**Nov 4, 2022, Fri, 12-1:30 p.m. CST:**

- "The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open"

**Nov 10, 2022, Thu, 12-1:30 p.m. CST:**

- "Home Fire - Ending the Cycle of Family Violence"
- "This River"
- Performance by Kristen McKay, an Alternative Indi artist located out of Winnipeg, MB

**Nov 18, 2022, Fri, 12-1:30 p.m. CST:**

- "Because We Are Girls"

**Nov 25, 2022, Fri, 12-1:30 p.m. CST:**

- Dr. Gabor Maté's "The Wisdom of Trauma"

- **Webinars:** MAWS staff hosted webinars to mark our key projects, learn from gender justice thought leaders, and commemorate important occasions. For International Women’s Day, we hosted the “International Women’s Day 2023: Launch of the new MAWS Virtual Art Gallery” webinar. We have also collaborated with organizations like Community Legal Education Association (CLEA) on webinars relating to GBV, survivors’ rights, and the law in Canada.
- **Newsletter:** An ongoing initiative to reach out to our members and stakeholders, the MAWS e-newsletter will be two years old this November, and has over 450 subscribers! Follow this link to subscribe: <https://maws.mb.ca/newsletter/>
- **Media relations:** MAWS staff have participated in several interviews with local and national media organizations on GBV-related issues in Manitoba. We aim to bring attention to and shine a spotlight on the escalating rates of GBV in Manitoba and the urgent need for collective action to end this epidemic of violence.
- **Advocacy:** Our staff represented MAWS & the Manitoba Family Violence (FV) sector at provincial and national policy consultations, committees, and conferences, including at:
  - University of Manitoba COVID-19 Committee
  - The Shockproofing Communities Summit and Lobbying Day on The Hill Ottawa, hosted by the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada;
  - The Government of Manitoba Clare’s Law Working Group;
  - The Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative;
  - The City of Winnipeg MMIWG2S+ Working Group;
  - The Alliance Against Violence & Adversity (AVA) Triadic Mentorship & Internship Working Group
- **Advocacy Letters:** In response to legislation, policy announcements, news, and current events, MAWS has written advocacy letters to community leaders, elected officials and all levels of governments urging collective action and the application of a GBV prevention lens in all decision-making that impacts Manitoba communities. Some of the issues we have responded to include: (a) the application of Clare’s Law in Manitoba; (b) national firearms legislations; (c) the need for trauma-informed training for provincial law enforcement and justice system professionals; (d) safe affordable housing for those affected by GBV; and (e) The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act and, (f) appropriate, timely services for children affected by abuse.
- We have also launched **The MAWS Advocacy Report** – a new monthly initiative, included in our e-newsletter to keep our members updated about our advocacy work.


#16DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV

Our webinar this week will feature Manitoba community leaders who will address a key theme of our #16Days of Activism campaign:

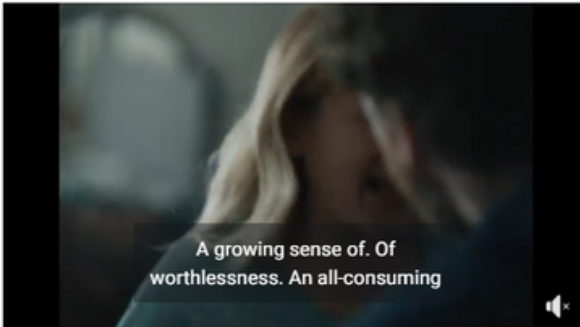
## Moving Forward: Collective Action & Accountability Against GBV

DEC 2, 2022 | 12 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. CST

There is no registration. Link to webinar:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81021730854>

 **Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS)** Sponsored · 🌐

Toxic masculinity is always dangerous and often fatal to women, girls, 2SLGBTQIA folks and other vulnerable and minoritized folks, and it harms men and boys. This video from [White Ribbon Campaign](https://www.whiteribbon.ca/dayafterday.html) calls on viewers to visit <https://www.whiteribbon.ca/dayafterday.html> to learn more about how to promote healthy masculinities, seek guidance and contribute to a future without gender-based violence. #dayafterday



## Transforming Together Federal Grant-based Project Updates: 2022/2023

“Transforming Together – A Project to Re-envision Family Violence” (TT) was a four-year (June 2019-May 2023) Domestic Violence (DV)/Family Violence (FV) systems change project hosted by the Manitoba Association of Women’s Shelters Inc. (MAWS) and funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). The project goal was to build the capacity of communities to respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and support the health and safety of individuals and families in Manitoba.

To build and maintain partnerships with stakeholders, we focused on addressing challenges and making the changes needed to strengthen relationships between the ten provincial family violence (FV) shelters, five federal shelters and other shelters, organizations, agencies, and Indigenous communities. Our goal has been to facilitate a more conducive, inclusive and welcoming place for clients. During the past four years, MAWS has done a deep dive into the operations of GBV service providers in Manitoba by talking to these organizations, their clients, and people with lived experience.

The work done under this grant includes the following items: (a) Building relationships with health care providers in Winnipeg; (b) Increasing capacity to deliver culturally appropriate services; (c) Building relationships with Indigenous communities, newcomer groups and agencies, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities;



(d) Reviewing the national landscape of the Family Violence (FV)/GBV sector; (e) Conducting surveys with FV shelter Executive Directors (EDs) and staff, as well as other EDs in the GBV sector and their staff to address the challenges they face in their work; (f) Conducting Systems-mapping to identify gaps in service delivery; (g) Developing courses and training for FV sector staff, aligned sector professionals, and the general public; (h) Providing Human Resource support; and, (i) Interviewing various stakeholders. We have also worked to improve accessibility, inclusiveness, knowledge mobilization, and trauma-informed, client-centred policy.

### Main Lessons learned:

- There is a need for realignment of personal and organizational approaches and values from the existing institutionalized colonial and patriarchal approaches.
- The FV sector has to move towards holistic, inclusive, strengths-based, harm reduction and trauma-informed approaches that rely on centering the needs of clients in service delivery.
- Existing partnerships have to be strengthened through effective inter-agency communication, resource-sharing and support, and collectively pursuing shared goals to reduce existing challenges in the sector.







## Updates from Women's Shelters Canada:

Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) has seen multiple milestones in 2022-2023 which have strengthened the capacity of the gender-based violence prevention sector across Canada, and helped the sector become more inclusive, trauma-informed, and survivor-centred.

### News:

- In Round 2, WSC distributed funding from Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) for the Response and Recovery of gender-based violence prevention shelters across Canada. As of July 28, 2022, 241 organizations have received \$50,706,583.74 in funding for Fiscal Year 2 (1 April 2022-31 March 2023) of the Response and Recovery Funding.
- Assisted by Megan Stephens (lawyer who acted on behalf of WSC), WSC participated in the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission (MCC). WSC's focus during the MCC was to highlight the nuances and impacts of GBV and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and ensure that their devastating consequences are fully understood by the public. The final MCC report was released in March 2023. For additional information on WSC's work on the Commission, visit the [WSC website](#).
- This year, WSC modified the annual [Shelter Voices](#) to coincide with the work they are doing on the "Feminist Brain Drain" project.
- WSC recently hired a new Research Coordinator to lead the work on the [Feminist Brain Drain](#) (FBD) Project. Working in partnership with the Victimology Research Centre at Algonquin College, WSC has been given access to survey data from their national study on the well-being of service providers and volunteers working with victims and survivors of crimes.


### Events:

- MAWS was pleased to be able to participate in the WSC "[More Than](#)" national public awareness campaign initiative, and had the opportunity to customize "More Than" campaign resources and assets for Manitoba.
- WSC and DAWN Canada partnered on a webinar series that analyzed the intersections of Violence Against Women (VAW) and disability, and explored approaches to providing trauma-informed VAW services to women with disabilities.
- In March 2023, WSC partnered with the Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF) to host the Shockproofing Communities National Summit for the Gender-Based Violence Sector in Ottawa. The initiative was supported by funding from the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE). The Summit provided opportunities for practical learning, tool creation, and collaboration with a diverse group of sector workers doing GBV work across the country. Gender justice and GBV prevention organizations across the country were able to come together, discuss promising practices and frontline experiences, compile lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, develop strategies to "shockproof" the sector against future crises and emergencies, and work toward our collective and shared vision of a gender equal, inclusive world without gender-based violence.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS MORE THAN PHYSICAL.**

Help is available.  
Please don't hesitate to call the confidential 24/7 Manitoba Family Violence Crisis & Support Line at 1-877-977-0007

**FIND OUT MORE**

  
sheltersafe.ca

- As part of the ShockProofing Communities Summit, WSC and CWF also organized a National Action Plan (NAP) Lobbying Day on the Hill event. The event helped GBV prevention organizations to explore ways in which their sector could help to strengthen the NAP and accelerate key strategic elements. Members of Parliament and Senators heard firsthand local perspectives on the GBV crisis across the country from the very people working 24/7 to support GBV survivors and their families. For many participants, this was the first opportunity to visit Members of Parliament and Senators in the national capital and highlight to these political leaders the urgent GBV prevention and survivor support actions they were taking on the frontlines to help end GBV.

### Projects:

- In April 2022, WSC launched the Technology Safety Canada project. This project, which expands the BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH)'s existing Technology Safety Project, equips shelter workers with the knowledge and resources they need to support women and girls who have experienced Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV). WSC has also recently launched the new Tech Safety website.
- WSC and the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) are currently collaborating on a research project to explore the funding that Violence Against Women (VAW) and Violence Against Indigenous women (VAIW) shelters receive, and identify gaps and disparities.
- WSC completed a study on second stage shelters in Canada and launched the second stage shelter project in fall of 2022. A project manager will lead this work and assist 16 project participants who are applying for funding through CMHC for transitional housing.
- WSC has developed a permanent Grants Program to support VAW shelters and transition houses across the country. The grants program will run on a calendar year rather than fiscal year, with two periods of applications per year. In 2023, there will only be one call for applications, as WSC gets the program up and running. This year's call will focus on "filling in the gaps." Applications will be accepted for projects that are ongoing (either from other funders or from WSC's federal funding redistribution) and need more financing or for projects that have been unsuccessful in their submission to other granting organizations. This means that shelters do not need to develop with new programs/ideas, and the applications will be easier to complete. Anticipated grants will be three to five larger grants of \$50,000-100,000, with the remaining being in the \$10-25,000 range. Applications were launched in June 2023.
- The BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) and WSC are partnering on a new project to provide training and mentorship to frontline shelter staff, based on BC's successful "Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment (PEACE)" approach for working with children and youth who have witnessed and/or experienced gender-based violence. This program was open to staff at shelters located in rural, remote, and northern communities outside of BC. The essence of the PEACE approach is to uphold the dignity of mothers and their children, while shining a light on the many resourceful and creative ways that they resist and respond to the violence in their lives. At the end of the training, participants can expect to feel supported, encouraged, valued, inspired and more equipped to support young people and their caregivers.



## Gender-Based Violence In Manitoba & Canada

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an urgent public health and human rights issue in Canada.



Gender-Based & Sexualized Violence are two of the few crimes that have increased in Canada over the past few decades.

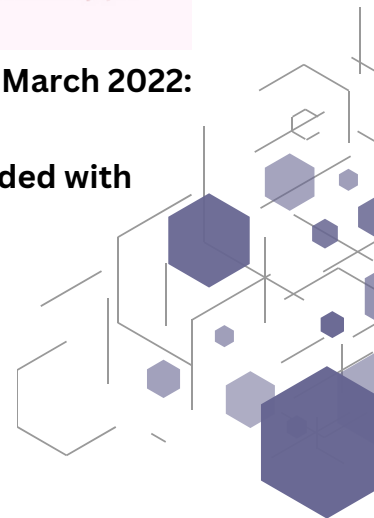
Manitoba has some of the highest rates of GBV in the country.

- Approximately every **48 hours**, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.
- In Canada, from January 1 to May 31, 2023 this year, 65 women & girls were killed by violence.
- **173** women & girls were killed by violence in Canada in 2021.
- In 2020, **160** women and girls were killed by violence. This is a concerning increase from **118** women & girls killed by violence in 2019.
- Indigenous women & girls are **12 times** more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada.

*\*Sources: Statistics Canada; Canadian Women's Foundation; The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability (CFOJA)*

### Manitoba Family Violence (FV) Shelters Statistics from April 2021 to March 2022:

- Over 18,000 crisis calls answered
- Over 2,500 clients (residential & non-residential) have been provided with support, including shelter from violence.
- Over 48,000 bednights
- Over 10,000 counselling sessions for clients



# Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Report

MAWS has been able to support Family Violence (FV) shelters with their much-needed and historically underfunded children's programs through the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). We thank the Public Health Agency of Canada for their continuous support of this program.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the necessary public health restrictions had the unfortunate consequence of making FV shelter service delivery challenging. However, operations at the shelters have now found a post-pandemic balance, allowing FV staff to focus on building healthier outcomes for the residential families. The number of families accessing shelter services this past year has increased, presumably due to the lifted restrictions after the pandemic.

The CAPC program staff provide counselling and groups to parents and their children aged 0 to 6 years old. Importantly, they also teach and model healthy parenting skills and monitor children's development. Shelter staff spend time with the children and parents and can watch for developmental milestones, as well as health and behavioural issues, and provide next steps as needed.

One of the continuing repercussions of the pandemic's isolation requirements is that FV shelters have found it difficult to create a supportive, safe connection with parents and children. FV staff have observed an increase in severe separation anxiety expressed by children and the need for increased intervention during group play times. Shelters have been seeing more children and parents with developmental delays and/or diagnoses of complex conditions like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs), as well as an increasing number of neurodivergent clients.

Often, the FV shelters are the only counselling resource available for parents and children affected by gender-based violence (GBV).

The professional mental health service providers who work with women and children have overwhelmingly long waitlists. One child has reportedly been on a waitlist for three years and has just been told it will be another two years before they can be seen. Without appropriate, timely, trauma-informed care and because of the lack of counselling services, the unaddressed mental health issues that children have been experiencing will compound in severity over time. In the long-term, this public health crisis will place an even greater burden on professional mental health service providers and the general health care system.



#### Our provincial CAPC statistics:

- 680 CAPC families accessed service;
- 35 male parents accessed service;
- 665 CAPC age children accessed service;
- 198 individual counselling sessions were conducted with 111 children;
- 284 support groups for children were held with 465 children participating;
- 716 playgroups were held with 1766 participants.

#### Parenting Life Skills:

- 222 parenting support groups were held with 433 parents participating;
- 567 counselling sessions were held with 199 parents.

One of the most significant lessons the FV sector has learned during the pandemic is that FV shelters can provide basic counselling and stabilization along with continuing care. Through assessments, staff already work to determine appropriate referrals for higher needs cases. However, the FV shelters' invaluable work needs to be supported with suitable funding. The funding would enable FV shelters to employ children's counsellors, and help alleviate the pressure on the non-shelter mental health resources, who would then be able to address cases of children with high needs with the timeliness these children deserve.



## Treasurer's AGM Report - April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023

As MAWS and the Family Violence (FV) sector recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now beginning to finalize the many grants we had received to support us through that challenging time. Fortunately, the MAWS team has grown, and with our renewed capacity, we have been able to continue to seek funding to maintain the progress we made in supporting the FV shelters throughout the pandemic. We are pleased to have new grants to fill the voids that will be left by the older grants. This capacity-building ensures that MAWS' expanded ability to support member shelters and associate members continues.

Donation dollars have leveled out, with MAWS securing \$40,237 in 2023. We are grateful to the many donors who have recognized our continued need and the importance of a consistent donation stream – we thank you for your support.

At our year-end, we recorded \$314,517.00 of deferred contributions. These amounts represent externally restricted and received funds, designated for programming that has not yet occurred. The deferral method allows us to better match our incomes with the associated expenses. This results in a better representation of the fiscal picture of the organization.

This year has seen MAWS continue to expand its services to all its members through training, public awareness and advocacy. 2022-23 has been a successful year, and I would like to thank the members of MAWS for their support and commitment.

Regards,

### **Tracy Whitby**

Executive Director, Eastman Crisis Centre Inc.  
Treasurer, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters



*Participants at the completion ceremony for the Shelter Support Worker Micro-Credential Program*



**THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS INC.**  
**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Prov of MB - MicroCredential (Schedule 1)	\$ 403,398	\$ -
Community Action Program for Children (Schedule 2)	222,947	222,947
Women and Gender Equality - TT (Schedule 3)	169,179	165,229
Women and Gender Equality - GBV (Schedule 4)	190,895	50,455
Grants	103,560	71,952
Donations	40,237	113,467
Interest income	24,002	2,830
Memberships	8,100	8,000
	<b>1,162,318</b>	<b>634,880</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising and promotion	5,000	-
Prov of MB - MicroCredential	403,398	-
Honoraria and other professional fees	72,332	39,181
Insurance	5,874	5,829
Memberships and subscriptions	1,250	1,250
Office expenses	31,682	16,740
Professional fees	8,400	6,940
Prov of MB - MicroCredential	403,398	-
Salaries and wages	331,378	233,478
Shelter operating grants	178,434	178,434
Shelter supplies grants	9,000	12,600
Shelter training grants	14,500	27,787
Travel and training	19,917	1,132
	<b>1,081,165</b>	<b>523,371</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>81,153</b>	<b>111,509</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Beginning</b>	<b>246,315</b>	<b>134,806</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 327,468</b>	<b>\$ 246,315</b>

Financial Statements completed by:  
 Gislason Targownik Peters,  
 Chartered Professional Accountants  
 675 Norquay Drive, Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0L1

## Thank You To Our Generous Donors & Supporters!

We'd like to thank our supporters, donors, funders and all individuals - those named below & those who wished to remain anonymous - who have been thinking of the Manitoba shelters.

Through your generosity, MAWS is able to continue our support work for Family Violence (FV) shelters and agencies in Manitoba.

### **Our donors & funders for 2022-2023 fiscal year:**

Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada  
Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)  
Women's Shelters Canada (WSC)  
Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF)  
Department of Families Manitoba  
White Ribbon Canada

Lafarge Canada Inc.  
Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Inc.  
Inwood Ladies Golf Club  
Atlas Graham Furgale (AGF) Employees donations and Corporate donation  
New Media Manitoba Inc.  
Simon Fraser University  
BETA SIGMA PHI XI Gamma Chapter  
Winnipeg Regional Women's Committee (PSAC)  
Donation from a member of the Manitoba Women's Institute  
VPC Group

The many people who donated through:  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund | CanadaHelps |  
United Way | Donate-A-Car | Charities Aid Foundation Canada

We would also like to thank all those donors who supported us but wished to stay anonymous.



Visit <https://maws.mb.ca/> for more information on MAWS and our various initiatives, and to sign up for our monthly newsletter!

Connect with us on social media!



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