

CO-CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

I have had the pleasure of working as the MLPD co-chair for the last year alongside a very competent and always contributing co-chair Jesse Turner! The duo of a historical perspective along with experience and combining that with keen interest and growing abilities has proven to be a very successful combination I think. I am not trying to say I am old or anything but if the shoe fits?!

Even though I have been involved with the MLPD one way or another throughout the 38 years my commitment is renewed by the passion and abilities our new MLPD members, new and ongoing MLPD Council Members, our volunteers, and our incredible staff bring to our organization. The League has re-established itself and is on the way to broadening our funding sources and our scope of work. We welcome and need new perspectives at our table and new strategies. Even though there already are plenty - we need to know about emerging issues as well.

While MLPD is expanding our collaborative agenda through social media such as Facebook and Twitter, in order to reach all interested parties in the disability self help rights activist movement we also need to identify new funding to continue this exciting path we are forging. As Jesse mentioned, our provincial government has recognized our value by extending our funding for one year, which reinforces the need to have an organization like ours alive and well in Manitoba.

Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, talent and energy to the MLPD this year. Let's keep on growing!

Paula Keirstead
Co-Chairperson

Firstly, I would like to thank the Provincial Council, as well as fellow co-chairperson –Paula Keirstead, for affording me the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee this past year. Continued support from all persons involved in the League has been of tremendous value as I have settled into the position. As one of MLPD’s newest members, I have taken great pleasure learning about the history of the organization and the endless contributions our members have made towards to the advancement of persons with disabilities.

MLPD’s numerous achievements, both past and present, were celebrated earlier this year during a formal event at the Legislative Building. A publication was compiled to accompany the evening of celebrations, and was the joint effort of MLPD, Social Planning Council, Disability Issues Office, Council of Canadians with Disabilities, and the Allan Simpson Memorial Fund. 38 years and still going strong!

Securing funds has been an ongoing concern for MLPD this past year. As a result, we submitted another request to the Provincial Government for support. A primary task of Council this year has been developing a dedicated Fundraising Committee in order for the League to become more financially stable. The Fundraising Committee is currently working on two events, one for summer and one for early winter. We encourage you to become involved by either attending the fundraising events, or better yet, by joining the Fundraising Committee!

We would like to extend a big “Thank You” to Josie and Deanna who make the office run smoothly, as well as create a warm and welcoming environment for community members. Both Derek and Daniel have spent a great number hours in the office, and their efforts have been invaluable. Our committees have grown in number this year, to include the Fundraising Committee, as well as an Employment and Income Security Committee. Our committees could not have achieved so much great work without our dedicated band of volunteers. And how could we forget our Provincial Coordinator, Diane, whose knowledge and experience is humbling.

Jess Turner
Co-Chairperson

Provincial Coordinator's Report

This year has been exciting and fruitful for MLPD! We now have a full complement of our standing Committees up and running. The latest Committees formed are the Employment and Income Security Committee and the Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee has embarked on several fundraising events, the first of which will be in July 2012. Our "Closing the Gap" disability rights pendant, designed by Hilary Druxman, has experienced robust sales. All of our Committees welcome new members, so if you are interested in working on an issue come out to a meeting.

Our Committees have been busy advocating in many areas. Transportation has continued to be an area where MLPD has done a lot of advocacy work with Handi-Transit, the Manitoba Taxicab Board and regular Winnipeg City Transit. Recently, Winnipeg Transit asked volunteers to consult on the height of the new electronic fare boxes and access for persons with disabilities. We appreciated being asked to consult before the boxes are installed in the buses in the next year. In addition, MLPD, along with other community advocates, also spoke out against the fare increase for Winnipeg Transit, which did not pass at City Council.

Our Ethics Committee organized a vigil at the Legislature for Harvey Sanderson, a person with disability who died as a result of a robbery. We had a turnout of over 100 people and also had national media coverage on APTN.

MLPD also participated in the drafting of the new Accessibility Legislation in the province of Manitoba. I participated in the Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities' Accessibility Advisory Committee which worked on the legislation. MLPD responded several times on paper and at public forums during this process. MLPD will continue to monitor developments in the legislation.

In March, MLPD, along with the Allan Simpson Memorial Fund, the Social Planning Council and the Disability Issues Office held a "Celebration of Accomplishments" at the Manitoba Legislature. The event honored politicians that have supported issues of disability over the last 38 years. This was a most successful event with over 100 people attending and most

of the awards recipients in attendance. In conjunction with the event, MLPD put together a booklet of our achievements, which can be found on our website www.mlpd.mb.ca.

I thank all of our MLPD staff for their hard work and dedication over this past year. Thanks to all the Provincial Council members, Committee members and volunteers who make this organization the voice of people with disabilities in Manitoba.

Diane Driedger
Provincial Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Employment & Income Security Committee Report

We have restarted the Employment and Income Security Committee. Our first meeting was in November.

We examined a U of M professor, Evelyn L. Forget's research on "The Town with No Poverty: The Health Effects of a Canadian Guaranteed Annual Income Field Experiment" from 2011. This took place in Dauphin, Manitoba, where the local government gave everyone Mincome – an equal living wage to minimum wage for 4 years. People on it didn't stop working. Many were single parents with children. Young adults used it to go to school. There was an 8% reduction in healthcare costs; the equivalent for all Canada would be four billion dollars in savings. Then it was scrapped due to an election.

The committee participated in the dialogue with City Council to vote against the 20 cent bus fare hike in February by speaking at the City Council meetings, writing letters, and signing petitions. We made clear this would affect low income families, people with disabilities and Handi-Transit users causing them to be reluctant to travel.

The Joint Committee on Employment is composed of government members and community members. Daniel Halechko is the MLPD representative on this committee.

MLPD participated with other poverty advocates as part of the EIA Advocate Network in a meeting with Peter Bjornson, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade on March 12th. The question was raised to increase the EIA rates. The Minister said the Province is a billion dollars in debt due to last year's flood and they will not raise the rates now. There was discussion on renting an apartment and EIA paying a onetime damage deposit. EIA will review this process. The Minister is committed to meeting with poverty advocates at least twice a year.

EIS Committee members participated in the Allan Simpson Memorial Fund Poverty Workshop on March 22nd at the Radisson Hotel to hear John Stapleton from Ontario's presentation on poverty and disabilities followed by group discussion. Feedback was given from people with disabilities and community stakeholders on what issues Manitobans are facing in terms of poverty and possible solutions.

The Committee has done research on the current EIA rates compared to rates in other provinces. Thank you Deanna Ng for all of your work! We will also be doing research on how income relates to safe affordable housing, proper nutrition and food security, and disability issues. We are hoping to form a joint committee with the MLPD Housing Committee on Housing and Income Security.

Ken Bristow
Employment and Income
Security Committee Chair

Ethics

The Ethics Committee deals with ethical issues related to people with disabilities as they are brought to the attention of MLPD. The roles of the committee are:

1. To monitor public policy developments in Manitoba which raise specific Ethical and Human Rights concerns for persons with disabilities.

2. To develop recommendations for the MLPD Provincial Council on ethics and public policy.
3. To share the perspective and work of the committee in ethics forums.
4. To assist the MLPD to inform grassroots consumers about ethical issues and assist the MLPD in developing opportunities to increase consumer understanding of how ethical issues impact on persons with disabilities.
5. To assist the MLPD Council to participate in national forums on ethics.

Over the past year, the Ethics Committee was involved in the following activities:

Harvey Sanderson Vigil:

On August 12, 2011, the MLPD Ethics Committee organized a very successful vigil on the grounds of the Legislative Building to remember the life of Harvey Sanderson and to express their grief and solidarity with Harvey and others with disabilities who are victims of violence. 60 people attended the event. Harvey Sanderson, a 27-year old man with a disability, was beaten in his apartment and subsequently died from his injuries. The vigil was moderated by Rhonda Wiebe (MLPD Ethics Committee member) with music provided by Mel Graham, another MLPD member.

The Honourable Jennifer Howard, Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, commended the MLPD for holding the vigil, introduced representatives from Manitoba Housing and Community Development and noted the steps being taken by the Province to increase safety for people with disabilities in Manitoba Housing facilities. Representatives from Qu'Appelle Housing remembered Harvey as a fun-loving person who laughed a lot and gave the shirt off his back for others. Jim Derksen reflected on people with disabilities who lose their lives as a result of violence and the need to minimize this type of abuse in our society and vigil participants also offered personal reflections.

Bonnie Bieganski, MLPD member, read her letter to the editor which urged that the charges against Mr. Sanderson's alleged abusers be upgraded from aggravated assault to manslaughter or attempted murder and that the

situation of Mr. Sanderson be treated no differently than a person without a disability.

Following the vigil, the MLPD wrote to the Honourable Andrew Swan, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, requesting that the charges be upgraded. The Winnipeg Police Service downgraded the charges to theft under \$2000. Assault charges were never laid.

Dean Richert and Jim Derksen, (MLPD Ethics Committee members) met with Lorraine Prefontaine, Lead Crown Attorney, to discuss this matter and raise awareness of the disability community's concerns regarding the perceptions law enforcement and the courts have towards violence against persons with disabilities.

Thank you to Paul Graham, a media professional, for capturing the event on video. The video can be viewed at: <http://www.mlpd.mb.ca>

Review Panel and CPSM:

In June 2011, MLPD sent a letter to the Hon. Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health, urging her department to reconsider the establishment of an end-of-life review panel to deal with issues of withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. We recommended that her Ministry continue to work with the (CPSM) to alter its Statement to remove the alleged absolute power for end-of-life decisions that it now places with physicians and asked her to legally mandate physicians to consult with patients and their proxies in all matters of life and death decisions. Dean and Jim met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health in mid-September and agreed to continue the dialog with the Department about the review panel and the CPSM.

On May 18, 2012, Dean and Jim held a follow-up meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health, Milton Sussman to discuss concerns over the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba Statement on the Withholding and/or Withdrawing of Life Sustaining Treatment. The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Working Group on Withholding and Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatment released a report this past year, and recommendation 14 of that report involves a commitment to establishing a review panel that would have the authority pursuant to legislation to adjudicate disputes between care givers and patients, proxies or their representatives relating to the

withholding or withdrawing of life sustaining treatment. We discussed the possibility of the Province implementing this recommendation, and the potential for widening the authority of such a review panel to deal with issues surrounding capacity. One consideration could be to establish a similar body to that of the Consent and Capacity Board (CCB) in Ontario. Mr. Sussman agreed that the Government was committed to looking into such a panel by reviewing the CCB Board in Ontario and would continue its discussion with representatives from MLPD. We look forward to exploring these options further.

Global Television and Taking Mercy:

The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) has been making Global Television aware of the damage done by “Taking Mercy”, an episode of 16 x 9, which promoted euthanasia of people with disabilities and reinforced stereotypical attitudes about disability. CCD’s Ending of Life Ethics Committee, co-chaired by Rhonda Wiebe and Dean Richert, is undertaking activities to increase Global’s awareness of how their programming was unethical. CCD distributed a Media Release sharing its concerns about the program, has made a complaint to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC) and submitted an article to Abilities Magazine. The CBSC complaint is still in progress. Viewers of the Global Television series 16 x 9 witnessed an alarming example of the devaluation of disability during the episode, Taking Mercy.” Annette Corriveau lobbied for legalized euthanasia, because she contends her adult children, Janet and Jeffrey, would be better off dead than living with their disabilities. Janet and Jeffrey, who have Sanfilippo syndrome, have intellectual disabilities. Global Television enlisted Robert Latimer and his supporter, university professor Arthur Schafer, to legitimize Annette’s position. Canadian courts convicted Latimer for the murder of his daughter Tracy, who had Cerebral Palsy. Tracy, much like Janet and Jeffrey, could not walk, talk or feed herself. While Janet and Jeffrey have a chronic condition, they are not terminally ill, facing imminent death. The MLPD is supporting CCD’s work to counter the negative portrayal of people with disabilities in this TV program.

Follow-Up Forum on End-Of-Life Issues:

The MLPD is supporting the work of the Department of Community Health Sciences (University of Manitoba) and St. Boniface Hospital Ethics to organize a follow-up forum on end-of-life issues. The event is planned for

the fall of 2012, and the Ethics Committee will be promoting it to MLPD members.

Individual members of the Ethics Committee continue to attend lunch and learn sessions at St. Boniface Hospital on various ethical issues and to participate in other activities related to ethics.

Thank you to the members of the MLPD Ethics Committee for your work over the past year. Members include: April D'Aubin, Clare Simpson, Jim Derksen, Rhonda Wiebe, Dean Richert, Valerie Wolbert, Harry Wolbert, Margot Miller and MLPD Provincial Coordinator Diane Driedger.

Colleen Watters
Ethics Committee Chairperson

FUNdraising

The MLPD is growing its fundraising efforts! And you can help.

Zanna Joyce has been engaged to develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy, focusing on events and a major fundraising event in the fall.

The first event is scheduled for July 25th, 2012, 5 – 8 p.m. It will be a BUD AND SPUD Night at the Tijuana Yacht Club at CanadInns, Polo Park. We will be looking for ticket sellers to help us reach our target of \$1500. So invite your friends. They'll get a steak, baked potato, salad and veggies, plus a beverage, for \$20, with MLPD keeping \$10 per ticket.

The next event will be rolled out over the next few months, but we will be presenting an event in November featuring local artists and entertainers. The anticipated date is November 17, a Saturday, from 12 – 6. If you are an artist, or entertainer, who would like to have your work considered, please contact the office. Or, if you like to arrange parties, let us know! The office phone number is 943-6099, or you can email Deanna at Deanna_mlpd@shaw.ca .

Ongoing Fundraising Activities:

Pendants:

We have sold over 100 of the beautiful “Closing the Gap” pendants, designed by internationally recognized Winnipeg designer Hillary Druxman. The pendants are pure silver, come on a cord with a silver clasp, and are packaged in a velveteen pouch. At \$35 each, they are a great way to showcase your support for a more inclusive society, for yourself or as a gift.

Grey Cup Tickets and Show and Save Books:

We will sell Grey Cup Tickets and Show and Save Books again this year. We need sellers, so if you are willing, please let us know.

PENNIES!: Like other groups, we are encouraging you to bring your pennies in, now that they are being phased out. We will roll them, so you don't have to, and give you a receipt for donations over \$10.

In other news, rollers needed, lol! We have a gadget that makes it fast and easy.

MLPD is really ramping up its fundraising efforts, and your participation, either on the newly developed Events Committee, or as sellers for tickets or products, would be very helpful. Just call Deanna at the office, 943-6099, or email her at Deanna_mlpd@shaw.ca if you would like to work at building support for the MLPD. It's not just the money. It is also building awareness and recognition for our 38-year-old, effective organization.

Ken Bristow
Fundraising Committee Chair

Housing

I don't have the time this year to prepare a really comprehensive report, or even anything close to one, for that matter. That's probably just as well, because a lot has happened this year and my guess is that you will prefer this Cook's Tour approach to its long, laborious alternative—me too.

If message-spreading and net-casting—neither of the electronic variety, needless to say—are indices of success, then we've enjoyed a pretty successful year. In the message-spreading department, we contributed articles to MLPD's newsletter as well as to a booklet celebrating 4 decades of disability-related achievement in Manitoba, jointly sponsored by MLPD the Allan Simpson Foundation. On the more verbal side, a first for us, fellow member Ken Shachtay and I presented as a part of an ILRC Lunch and Learn program segment during Manitoba Access Awareness Week. The only other time the committee per se was the subject of public discussion at a public meeting that I'm aware of was during Don Ament's memorial last year. Another item of minor note for this section, we contributed a potential research idea to the wide community of interested disability organizations relating to fire (and safety matters generally) and newcomers with disabilities or who have disabled family members. That was a result of a November 17 research forum jointly sponsored by the Disability Issues Office and Canadian Centre on Disability Studies.

On the net-casting side—the means by which we collect essential background knowledge so that we can keep our perspective current and relevant—I actually get to crow a bit this year; only two of our monthly meetings, November and February, did not include guest presenters. What these generous volunteers had to impart, and our subsequent discussions with them, were terrific and in some cases, even inspiring. I hesitate to name them all because, as useful to us as their presence was for us, doing so without providing some kind of summary information as to what they had to say is just not practical for present purposes. So, regretfully, thanking them for their time and expertise once again is going to have to suffice, and I hope this enforced anonymity here won't discourage them from rejoining us another time, should we decide to presume on their patience so far.

In their various ways, our guests put us in good stead for the forthcoming activity of monitoring, and co-operating with, the efforts of the Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Committee. Especially after our visits from Marie-Lynn Hamilton, an advocacy officer with the Winnipeg ILRC, and Access for All Inc.'s architect Brian Everton, the committee now has a greater appreciation regarding the limitations of current legislation where, for instance, the rights of landlords and the needs of disabled renters whose mobility difficulties often increase over time, may come into direct conflict with one another (to the detriment of the renter, for the most part). It's a shock to hear that the installation of an unreported grab bar in a bathroom

is enough to get you evicted: that may not happen a lot, but that it can at all, in 2012, is certainly scary.

Apart from guests as an input source, we are also now routinely contacted by the Right to Housing Coalition whose founder and director, Clarke Brownlee (another of this year's guests) battles relentlessly on behalf of those who experience housing-related deficits in their lives. Last fall, we became one of the 46 organizations that help make up that very worthy advocacy group. I also regularly pass along material I receive from the Co-op Housing Development Group's secretary, Cheryl Crostowicz touching on R&D, Co-operative (2012 is the U.N.'s International Year of Co-ops), and national issues.

And then there is first-year committee member Louis Ricciuto who not only keeps us posted as to what relevant is going on in Winnipeg, but manages to get to a good many of them and bring reports back as to what went down. That's useful because this year, while there's been good attendance of people at meetings, there's been enough coming for some and not for others that a steady, responsible member like Louis, among three or four others I hasten to add, is genuinely appreciated. Another major stress we had to deal with was the fact that I virtually didn't have a working computer from early January through April (my impression is that I spent half the time apologizing for one reason or another). But on the plus side, we had the great co-operation of Manitoba Housing in regard to the attendance of their Wendy Rath, who retired after several years with us at the end of 2011, and then Marlaine Myk who most conscientiously took her place. DIO's Dave Martin wasn't at our meetings merely as an information resource, but unwittingly made us tighten up our act by our having to begin business at 10:30 which, in my estimation, cut down on a lot of the palaver that normally bedevils as wide-ranging a topic area as housing and disability. Believe me, being able to say, "We really don't have a lot of time to spare," is a fine asset for anyone chairing housing committees to have on hand when you notice discussion heading for the tall grass and thickets. As to assets—and I'm sure other MLPD chair people will heartily agree—our biggest one is Deanna Ng without a doubt. Her minutes are exhaustive and she scrupulously follows through on every item she agrees to undertake, no matter how small or onerous.

I still believe that our committee matters in that at the very least, it provides a well-informed focus on an issue area that is critical to Manitobans with

disabilities. Builders continue developing inaccessible housing stock in spite of all those demographic signs, rural seniors may get an accessible apartment but little community access support, the latest federal administration staunches every means by which we may justify our legitimate demands for safe and accessible housing, vulnerable people don't often feel safe where they can afford to live—not to mention that pesky, chronic bedbug problem. So even on the basis of a quick scratch-of-the-surface view of what's out there and needing to be related to, there's surely more than enough for a committee constituted like ours to do.

I'm always hopeful that we'll attract the kind of person who has a little staying power, who's willing to do a bit of grinding if necessary and who isn't there just to dig the vibes, as it were. I'm optimistic about next year not just because of the opportunity it presents to input into the drafting of provincial access legislation, but also because (as we've just learned) a newly-formed MLPD committee is interested in working with us to investigate provincial shelter allowances for people with disabilities. It will be fun to see where this line of activity leads us.

Mel Graham
Housing Committee Chair

Personnel

The Personnel Committee has been quite active this year as we have been involved in interviewing and hiring a Communications Assistant, Deanna Ng to take over some administrative duties and to assist our Provincial Coordinator by supporting committees and carrying out other program tasks.

Josie Concepcion long time staff person at MLPD has decided to go to part time hours at MLPD and while we miss her energy and laugh everyday we are happy and relieved that she is still handling the accounting tasks.

Daniel Halechko is continuing to work on the Thumbs Up project on a part time basis and Zanna Joyce is working on a contract basis on our Health Project, our Financial Literacy Project and some fund raising activities. So the office is often bustling with staff working on various initiatives.

The Personnel Committee has also formalized our staff evaluation process and forms, which includes a self evaluation component. It is important that staff know how much they are appreciated and in what areas they can grow.

Thank you to our Provincial Coordinator Diane Driedger for her support in our committee's work.

Paula Keirstead
Personnel Committee Chair

Transportation

One of the most active committees of MLPD has been the Transportation Committee. We have met regularly almost every month with a great degree of participation from MLPD members. It is my opinion that transportation has become one of the most significant issues facing the disabled community, especially Handi-Transit.

As a result of us promoting issues related to Handi-Transit internally (through MLPD's newsletter) and the media, we have received a large number of complaints and concerns by people using the Handi-Transit system. All of those concerns have been sent on to Handi-Transit's Manager Catherine Caldwell to review, as they are in the process of fundamental changes to the Handi-Transit policies. These proposed policy changes will be sent on to City Council for approval sometime this summer and will be implemented by November of this year.

We have also been involved in discussions regarding technological changes regarding both regular Transit and Handi-Transit. For example, electronic cash fare boxes will be installed in regular Transit buses sometime in 2013 and debit cards will be issued to regular Transit users so that tickets and transfers will be eliminated. With regards to Handi-Transit, by 2013 a GPS system will be installed in all taxis that provide Handi-Transit service. Also by 2013, a monthly billing service will be put in place (just like a phone bill) instead of using tickets. This way, you don't have to pay every time you use Handi-Transit, but rather you'll receive a bill at the end of the month indicating how many times you used it, if you have any credits (ie: no "no shows" for 6 months), and "no shows" that you owe.

All in all, our committee has had a very productive year!

Nick Ternette
Transportation Committee Chairperson

Thumbs Up for Access – Community Edition

Since our last annual report a lot has taken place through the Thumbs Up for Access project. By December 2011 we had completed year one of the two year Community Edition. On April 2, 2012 we started on the second year.

During our ongoing completion of year one we compiled a tremendous amount of data on Windsor Park and Wolseley and presented the data in an analytical framework. We were thoroughly surprised to discover the deviation which existed between the two communities on some criteria. For example, one might assume a hypothetical proposition that Wolseley with its older buildings would be less accessible than the newer buildings in Windsor Park. This position proved to be wrong as can be extrapolated from the findings revealing that Wolseley has 67 accessible buildings (non-residential) compared to only 8 for Windsor Park.

When we embarked on the second year, the first piece of business was to reassemble our Advisory Committee and hold a meeting to get direction on how to proceed. First, the Advisory Committee decided we would audit two additional communities: 1) Portage Avenue west to Westwood, and, 2) Osborne Village Corydon Business Association to Stafford. Second, we would hire a facilitator with accessibility expertise to train several disability access consultants and to facilitate 3 or 4 community information sharing workshops.

The Advisory Committee decided that the project should put a lot of effort into getting our findings into the media, put on our web site, and put info on ILRC Iphone database.

We would like to thank The Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba Community Services Council for their support and generous funding contributions which made this project possible and successful.

Daniel Halechko
Project Coordinator

Report on Activities: Health Project and Financial Literacy

Health Project:

We have been contracted by the Province of Manitoba to conduct research on the Primary Health Care needs of Manitobans with Disabilities. Primary Health Care is the type of health service a person receives from a family doctor – a generalist, who then makes referrals for tests and to specialists.

This project is underway, with the survey having cleared the hurdle of the University of Manitoba Ethics Committee. We were at the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities Disability Health and Wellness Conference, and handed out approximately 35, getting some back right on the spot.

We will be sending it out through six different organizations. We will also be holding four focus group meetings, two in Winnipeg, and then one in Thompson and one in Steinbach, and one in the Lac du Bonnet area.

The results will be collated by Diane Driedger MLPD Provincial Coordinator, and Nancy Hansen, Director of the University of Manitoba Interdisciplinary Masters Program in Disability Studies.

Anyone is welcome to complete the survey. Please contact Deanna at the MLPD office to obtain a copy of the survey, either in print or as an emailable form. Her number is 943-6099.

Financial Literacy for People Experiencing a New Health or Disability Challenge

We are working with the Community Financial Counselling Services Centre on this project, to develop course materials that can be used on their own,

or incorporated into other financial management educational materials that are focussed on the financial aspects of coping with a new or worsening disability, or health problem. We are considering both the person who experiences the problem, and also the situation of someone who might provide care to someone, where that is necessary.

We understand from research that people who were able to accept that things might be different for the foreseeable future, and thought through the changes they might have to make in their finances, did better than those who hoped things would get better.

We are using the results of that research to create a workbook for the individuals so affected, as well as facilitator's guides for educators, so they can be more sensitive. Our intent is not to encourage separate programming – we are hoping that by making educators aware of some of the specific challenges associated with disability and sudden or chronic illness they will be able to offer a better service. Additionally, people with disabilities will be able to access programs that are convenient to their location, and focused on the issues that are most important to them, which may not be their health or disability!

Zanna Joyce
Consultant

Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD)

The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities is one of CCD's founders. Thus CCD has had a long and beneficial relationship with the League. Since 1976, the League has been sharing some of its most skilled members with CCD. This year, the following Manitobans played significant roles in CCD: Terry McIntosh (Council Representative), Yvonne Peters, Peter Tonge (Human Rights Committee), Valerie Wolbert (Access to Technology Committee). Dean Richert is a Co-chair of the Human Rights Committee and he and Rhonda Wiebe are Co-chairs of the Ending of Life Ethics Committee. Jim Derksen volunteers on CCD's Human Rights, Ending of Life Ethics and International Committees. This year, the League assisted CCD address challenges in the political environment and register a number of successes. This report shares the successes we made together.

Cabinet Hears from CCD—Chairperson Tony Dolan met with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty about the Budget, the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), and the need for the Disability Tax Credit to be refundable. CCD discussed labour market issues, the Social Development Partnerships Program and the Department’s new data collection strategy with Minister Diane Finley, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and National Defense Minister Peter MacKay heard from us about implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). CCD discussed access with the Hon. Steven Fletcher, Minister of State for Transport.

CCD before Supreme Court—CCD intervened in the D.A. I. and Moore cases before the Supreme Court. In the D.A.I. case, CCD supported the position that people with intellectual disabilities should not have to prove to the court that they understand the concept of the promise to tell the truth. Like others, they should only have to promise to tell the truth. The Court’s ruling supported this position. In the Moore case, CCD explained how students with disabilities should be accommodated by schools. The Court has not ruled on this case.

CCD Speaks Out to Regulator—CCD argued before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission that telecommunications should be regulated to ensure accessible services.

Promoting the CRPD—The United Nations invited Steve Estey, Chair of CCD’s International Committee, to speak on civil and political participation during the annual UN Conference attended by countries that have ratified the CRPD. CCD has been working with the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) on monitoring the CRPD.

Researching the Duty to Accommodate—A research collaboration between CCD and the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) partnered Gwen Brodsky, Shelagh Day, and Yvonne Peters to investigate how the duty to accommodate is eliminating barriers for persons with disabilities in Canada and how it can be used to address long-standing systemic barriers. The CHRC website published the results in “Accommodation in the 21st Century”.

End Exclusion—In November, 150 participants attended End Exclusion where they focused on poverty reduction strategies underway in Canada and shared ideas for policy reform with leading researchers on poverty. The evening before End Exclusion, CCD hosted a gala where community members recognized political allies who helped make Canada more accessible and inclusive.

Under the umbrella of the Allan Simpson Memorial Fund, CCD worked with the League, the Manitoba Disabilities Issues Office and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg to undertake in Manitoba an event similar to End Exclusion. The Manitoba celebration and poverty workshop took place on March 21-22, 2012. CCD's research project, Disabling Poverty/Enabling Citizenship supported John Stapleton's participation in the poverty workshop.

The Work Continues—This year with federal budget cutbacks, Canadians saw organizations, such as the Canadian Council on Welfare, disappear. However, the Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP), which funds CCD and its provincial members, remains and there will be negotiations on how the program might be changed.

In the coming months, CCD will continue work already underway on the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), immigration, Canada's data collection strategy on persons with disabilities, other issues and it will also respond to new barriers.

April D'Aubin
CCD

Treasurer's Report

This year has been a positive year for MLPD in maintaining its ongoing operations and in expanding our programs. We have had funding from the Jewish Foundation, Don Ament bequest, Winnipeg Foundation, Manitoba Hydro (Selkirk), the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, our Direct Mail campaign, the Manitoba Community Services Council, Hilary Druxman, and a joint project with the Community Financial Counseling Services (TD Foundation).

We have optimism for the future of the organization. However, we are still dependent on the funds from Family Services, the Province of Manitoba and the federal grant through the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD). As of April 1, 2012 they have both been extended for one year until March 31, 2013. Over the next year MLPD must direct its efforts to additional fundraising. A Fundraising Committee of enthusiastic volunteers has been struck and is planning several exciting fundraising events –a Bud and Spud July 25th and an arts and cultural show in November 2012. We welcome volunteers to help us with these events and look forward to seeing everyone there out to support these events.

On behalf of the MLPD, I thank Josie Concepcion for her excellent management of our financial records and to KPMG for the Review Engagement Report.

Ken Bristow
Treasurer

Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Inc.
Statement of Operations
March 31, 2012
(Unaudited)

Assets

Current assets:

Cash and short-term deposits	\$	56,764
Accounts receivable		18,817
Prepaid expenses		339
		<hr/> 75,920

Capital assets:

Equipment		16,236
Leasehold improvements		12,829
		<hr/> 29,065
Accumulated amortization		24,340
		<hr/> 4,725
		<hr/> <hr/> \$ 80,645

Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets (Deficiency)

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	13,802
Deposit payable		1,200
Deferred leasehold inducement		3,740
		<hr/> 18,742

Deferred contributions 22,406

Net assets (deficiency):

Investment in capital assets		4,725
Internally restricted		31,041
Unrestricted		3,731
		<hr/> 39,497
		<hr/> <hr/> \$ 80,645

Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Inc.
Statement of Operations
Year ended March 31, 2012
(Unaudited)

Revenues:

Government of Canada		
Human Resources Development	\$	56,808
Province of Manitoba		
Family Services		50,000
Competitive Training and Trade		3,449
Community grants, donations, fees and sundry:		
Donations		9,643
Fundraising		4,175
Bequests		5,000
Membership		317
Rental		15,120
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba		
(M. Rosner Memorial Fund)		1,081
TD Financial Literacy		7,500
Project administration fees		2,475
Sphere-Quebec		3,231
		<hr/>
		158,799

Expenditures:

Amortization of capital assets	\$	920
Consulting		44
Equipment lease		5,043
Fundraising		5,231
Liability insurance		1,311
Meetings		2,081
Memberships		1,000
Printing, postage, supplies and general office		5,370
Rent		34,839
Review engagement fees		5,586
Salaries and benefits		94,424
Sundry		2,106
Telephone		2,662
		<hr/>
		160,617
		<hr/>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$	(1,818)
		<hr/>

Thanks to All Our Funders and Corporation Donors

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated

The Province of Manitoba Department of Family Services and Housing

Human Resources Development Canada

Manitoba Community Services Council

The Winnipeg Foundation

The Estate of Donald Gordon Ament

The Michael J. Rosner Fund
Administered by The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba

Manitoba Hydro Selkirk & Interlake Employees'
Charitable Donations Committee

Fort Garry Industries

Global Innovations Computer Consultation Services

Grain Insurance & Guarantee Co.

Melet Plastics Inc.

Missionary Oblate Sisters

Hilary Druxman

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS 2011-2012

Ken Bristow
Carlos Sosa
April D'Aubin
Nick Ternette
Shayani Fernando
Mindy Tucker

Daniel Halechko**
Jesse Tucker
Paula Keirstead
Colleen Watters
Zephania Matanga
Harry Wolbert

Executive Committee Members

Co-Chairperson - Paula Keirstead & Jesse Turner
Vice Chairperson - Harry Wolbert
Secretary - April D'Aubin
Treasurer - Ken Bristow

MLPD Staff

Diane Driedger – Provincial Coordinator
Josie Concepcion – Office Administrator
Emily Ternette – Communications/Program Assistant**
Deanna Ng – Communications Assistant
Daniel Halechko – Thumbs Up Coordinator

**On Leave

This report is available in alternate media upon request