



*A timely new publication by the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities*

## Provincial Council News

The new MLPD Council was elected at the AGM in June, with Marie White, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities bringing greetings and a presentation on the CCD's work in the areas of economic integration and the elimination of poverty among persons with disabilities.

Since our February membership planning event, the Provincial Council worked with Jim Derksen to develop a strategic plan for MLPD. The plan was approved by Provincial Council in late September and will be sent to Manitoba Family Services and Housing. We will be holding a membership event this fall

to get your feedback and support on the plan and ask for your help in implementing it.

We have re-organized the office and updated the database that we use for our direct mail campaigns.

**If you see interesting newspaper articles about issues important to people with disabilities, or if you have written a letter to the editor or a politician, we would like to hear about it. Please send copies to the office.**

*We are trying to use e-mail as much as possible to send updates on MLPD activities. If you have e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Josie at [MLPD@shawcable.com](mailto:MLPD@shawcable.com).*

## Election: This is our Canada

The MLPD is encouraging its members to 'engage' all those candidates that are seeking election. "Looking at the recent agenda of the Federal Government, you realize social policy is homeless," states CCD Chair, Marie White.

For Canadians with disabilities this is bad news. Social policy cannot remain homeless. It must have a central role in the government so that all can experience the benefits of full citizenship. We are urging voters to review the various Parties' social policy platforms.

The disability community is looking for a Canada where inclusion is a fact of life. Vision is not enough. Action is required!

We are seeking candidates' commitment to address the poverty of Canadians with disabilities. 14.3 % of Canadians have a disability and far too many of them live in poverty. About 1/3 of First Nations & Aboriginal

### **NEED HELP NAVIGATING THE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?**

Paula Keirstead, the Program Coordinator of the "Community Employment and Income Assistance Education Program" is in the MLPD office every other Monday to provide answers to your questions about EIA. **Please call Josie at 943-6099 to obtain information about dates and times that Paula is available, and to register for an appointment.**

Offered by the Community Financial Counselling Service.

## Election, cont'd

persons with disabilities live in poverty.

*Let's make poverty and social exclusion history.*

Manitobans with disabilities want to work! The Parties and candidates must agree to address the unemployment of people with disabilities. Investing in disability supports is a priority of our community. And Central to this is a commitment to deinstitutionalization and the removing of stigmas that are attached to disability.

***We challenge all of our members to make their voice heard. This is our Canada. Help end exclusion.***

## Election Forum

**OCT. 9: 2008 12-1:30 p.m.  
U of W, 515 Portage Ave.**

Four Party Forum on Poverty Reduction, Urban Aboriginal Issues, Housing and Homelessness and Youth Engagement Issues.

## Community Presence

*Here is a sampling of MLPD Community collaborations and representations.*

The Social Planning Council has undertaken to organize a forum focusing on the income disparity still prevalent in our society. The MLPD is taking a place in the planning for this event to ensure that the ways that disability intersects with other issues related to poverty are well represented. Our official representative to this planning group is MLPD Board member Joe Hearn.

Joe Hearn and Ross Eadie will attend Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission hearings in November to address issues related to technological and regulatory changes in various media important to persons with disabilities on behalf of the MLPD.

*Have an issue that you think the League should be addressing? Email [mlpd@shawcable.com](mailto:mlpd@shawcable.com).*

## Upcoming Events:

**Book Launch:** Stephen Hammond will launch his book ***Steps in the RIGHTS Direction*** on Friday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Millennium Library in the Carol Shields Auditorium from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

**Federal Election: Oct. 14. Voting Access info:**  
[www.electionscanada.ca](http://www.electionscanada.ca)

**Annual General Meeting:** DAWN Canada hosts its AGM Oct. 18, 1:30 – 4:30. Info: **775-9327** or e-mail [ternette@mts.net](mailto:ternette@mts.net)

## National Euthanasia Conference:

"Deathmaking", with international guest speakers. October 24 & 25 Ph: 1-877-439-3348 or [www.euthanasia-prevention.on.ca](http://www.euthanasia-prevention.on.ca). Cost: \$99/\$69

## Learning Disabilities

**Conference:** "It Starts With Connection" an LD/ADHD Learning Summit for professionals, community leaders and families. October 24 & 25, Ph. 774-1821 or visit [www.ldamanitoba.org](http://www.ldamanitoba.org). Cost: varies

***Have an event to publicize? A service to offer? Let us know. PSAs and advertising spots available.***

## The 2008/2009 MLPD Provincial Council:

Harry Wolbert (Co-chair), Terry McIntosh (Co-chair), Dean Richert (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair), Colleen Watters (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair) Clare Simpson (Treasurer), Ross Eadie (Secretary), Joe Hearn, Laurie Helgason, Zanna Joyce, Paula Keirstead, , Theresa Swedick, Ted Roots (Souris Branch)