



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

Celebrating 35 years of advocacy in Manitoba!

On behalf of the Provincial Council and all of our staff, I want to wish all of our members and friends a Happy New Year as we celebrate our 35th year as a united voice of citizens with disabilities in this province. Congratulations to everyone!

Your MLPD has come quite a ways since the early days of "Handi-Transit". Many battles have been fought and won. A few were lost. However the MLPD continues to move forward. We've also seen many new faces along the way. It's interesting to note that a new generation of leaders has been emerging within the disability rights movement.

Your Provincial Council has been hard at work advancing the cause and agenda of Manitobans with disabilities. The MLPD has gone through a bit of organizational restructuring. This includes a brand new Operational Plan which we will soon be unveiling to our members at a meeting to be held on Jan. 30th at the Ellice Café. We are encouraging all of our members to attend. Bring a friend. We are asking everyone attending to RSVP by Jan. 19th. Food and Refreshments will be served.

Have an issue that you think the League should be addressing? Email mlpd@shawcable.com

New Staff at MLPD

Hello my name is Libby Zdriluk. I have begun a placement here at MLPD through the EIA program. I will be here over the year

supporting the MLPD in day to day activities and providing support wherever needed. I am excited about the opportunity to work with MLPD and its members while gaining valuable experience and skills. I am currently enrolled in the Para Educator program at Red River getting my certification to work with special needs children in the school system. I have previously worked with ILRC as the Peer Support and IL Skills consultant. I am looking forward to meeting everyone associated with the organization and helping contribute to our community. I would like to thank the council for providing me with this opportunity and hope my term here will be both valuable to myself and the organization. Thank you

Office Space Available

MLPD is offering a desk space for any small business owner looking to be closer to the downtown area. \$300/mo for all utilities excluding phone. Lease would be for a 6 month period. For more info call the league office.

Job Opportunity!

Do you have experience with access to buildings and services from the perspective of persons with disabilities? Do you understand the concept of universal design? Have you participated in audits of building accessibility? Do you have some experience with writing proposals? Do you like to organize? Well if you answered yes to two or more of these questions, we are willing to consider you for coordinating the following exciting project:

The "Thumbs Up" program is focused on recognizing businesses and services within the community, that have consistently made an effort to make themselves accessible, safe, and user friendly for individuals with

disabilities and mobility problems. It is a positive and voluntary program that awards a place or a service a "Thumbs Up" decal, after a spot check has been completed. In order to pass the spot check a business must be accessible at that time meaning that anyone with mobility problems, including people who use wheelchairs or who have eye sight impairments, can independently enter, do their business, and leave safely.

The Thumbs Up program in Winnipeg will start in the downtown community to identify safer and more accessible places for persons with disabilities, seniors and individuals with mobility problems living and visiting in the area. While it is important to meet all accessibility expectations, the bold items on the Thumbs Up checklist must be met in order for a business/agency to receive a Thumbs Up decal! Businesses and services that have been awarded a decal are asked to place it so that it is visible to the public.

Contact MLPD by e-mail or telephone, and we will send you a full position description. We need to know if you are interested by February 2, 2009. Call 943-6099 or e-mail mlpd@shawcable.ca. Interviews will be conducted with a short list of applicants. Either way, we will let you know the result of our consideration.

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.

Upcoming Events:

U of M Access Awareness Day: The University of Manitoba is hosting this event to showcase the many disability organizations within Manitoba. **February 5th, 2009** University Centre (main floor) **9:00-1:30**. To register please call 474-6213. Cost: Free.

REES 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Thursday February 19, 2009 at the Norwood Hotel-Promenade Ballroom. Call 832-7337 or email info@re-es.org for more information.

DAWN Meeting: January 26th. 5:30-7:30.

Women's Health Clinic. Info: 775-9327 or e-mail ternette@mts.net

ILRC's Annual Cabin Fever Social

Saturday April 18, 2009. 8:00 pm-1:00am. Burton Cummings Community Centre. Call Heidi for tickets. 947-0194.

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 (1st Vice-Chair), Colleen Watters (2nd Vice Chair), Clare Simpson (Treasurer), Ross Eadie (Secretary, Zanna Joyce, Paula Keirstead, Theresa Swedick, Ted Roots (Souris Branch)