

2016 - 2017

ANNUAL REPORT



Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

MISSION STATEMENT

MLPD is a united voice of people with disabilities and their supporters that promotes equal rights and full participation in society, while also facilitating positive change through advocacy and public education.

MLPD PHILOSOPHY

- **Manitobans with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as any other person.**
- **All persons, regardless of abilities, must have access to opportunities in order to exercise these rights.**

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I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



The past year has been a time of change, incredible growth and new opportunities for MLPD.

It's an exciting to be the MLPD Chairperson, and I would like to mention a few of the important activities that occurred during 2016-2017, beginning with our move to 294 Portage Avenue (Room #909).

Our office space, which the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) generously offered to share with us, is centrally located downtown between Bell MTS Place and the Radisson Hotel, and directly across the street from Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC).

As is the case with most non-profit organizations, the current fiscal reality in Manitoba is very challenging, but we are meeting this challenge by searching out new funding opportunities, including building business

partnerships and creating an MLPD social enterprise.

This social enterprise is a fee-for-service program that helps both the public and private sector comply with the *Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)*. A key feature of this program is community collaboration, and MLPD has established a project advisory committee with representatives from the disabilities community in Manitoba.

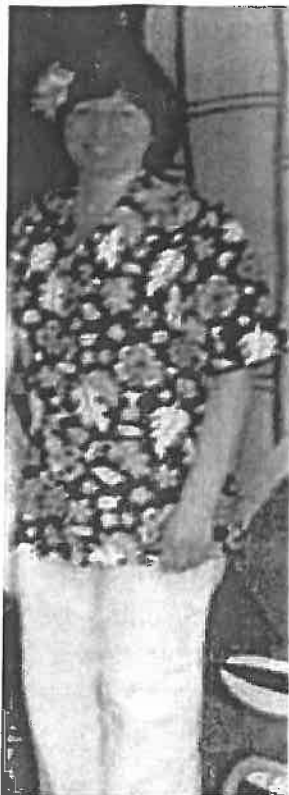
I would also like to take this opportunity to voice my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our staff. And I have to thank our Provincial Council members, as well as the people who volunteered to serve on committees, for their support and advice during the 2016-2017 year.

MLPD continues to grow and improve as we strive to promote equal rights, accessibility and full participation in society for all Manitobans living with disabilities.

Much important work still needs to be done, and I look forward with great enthusiasm to MLPD's future accomplishments as we actively grow to respond to evolving needs and expectations.

David Kron
MLPD Chairperson

II. PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT



As the Provincial Coordinator of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD), I've experienced a very exciting year of changes (and challenges!), including innovative business partnerships, expanded collaboration with other community organizations, and exciting new opportunities.

Our office moved from 500 Portage Avenue to shared office space with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) at 294 Portage. The staff at CCD made us feel very welcome, and we will continue to advocate for all of you from our new central location.

MLPD has developed a new social enterprise, and is offering innovative accessibility consulting services on a fee-for-service basis to help provincial organizations, both the public and private sector, comply with the *Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)*. This important work will enable Manitobans of all abilities with the opportunity to participate fully in everyday life and access services and products throughout the province.

Our social enterprise – in addition to helping us promote the concept of accessibility while raising our profile – is earning us essential revenue as we work towards independent, sustainable funding. MLPD recently completed a contract with MB Liquor & Lotteries, and we are about to begin a new one with the MB Government Employees Union (MGEU).

A key feature of our accessibility consulting services is community collaboration. We have created the MLPD Community Advisory Committee (MCAC), which has representatives from fifteen different organizations, including mental health, sensory, cognitive, and physical disabilities. This collaboration with community organizations helps us capture more perspectives, and allows the disabilities community to steer the conversation about increasing accessibility.

We are also exploring formal partnerships with other community organizations and for-profit companies in order to expand our social enterprise while providing client organizations with practical and innovative solutions for the removal and prevention of accessibility barriers.

As well, I am very pleased to report that MLPD received a one-year renewal of Provincial funding for operating expenses, which is further proof that our work is respected and valued by the government.

We have come a long way in our 40+ years of promoting equal rights, full participation in society, and positive change through consultation and public education.

Our mission is to build on our past successes and continue to help make Manitoba more inclusive and accessible. MLPD is moving in a new, energized direction as we grow and respond to our community's evolving needs and expectations.

In keeping with my photo's Hawaiian theme (taken at MLPD's 2016 Christmas Luau party) "Mahala" / "Thank You" for your continued support.

Jennifer Sande
Provincial Coordinator

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

I wish to present to you a summary of the Financial Statements for MLPD's 2016 – 2017 Year. We have the Statement of Operations / Statement of Financial Position.

Please go to pages 10 - 13 to view the Statements.

The League has retained Tony Gauthier, CA, CPA, as our Auditor for the 2016-2017 Year.

Highlights:

- Revenue of: \$150,951
- Cash at the end of the year: \$74,093
- We had expenses of: \$189,969

IV. MLPD OFFICE UPDATE

Emily Walker – Accessibility Program Manager



Hello everyone! I started working at MLPD as the new Accessibility Program Manager this past February.

I was hired to develop and implement MLPD's new social enterprise program that assists private and public sector organizations in the province become more accessible and inclusive for all Manitobans. MLPD's Accessibility Consulting Services were created in response to requirements under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA). It's a very exciting time!

Previously, I have worked at Veterans Affairs Canada and the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba. My areas of expertise include hidden disability, mental health and psychological health and safety. I love learning new things and am passionate about the value of lived experience when identifying and removing barriers. I am happy to be part of the team here at MLPD!

Sincerely,

Emily Walker
Accessibility Program Manager

V. COUNCIL OF CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES (CCD) REPORT

Promoting our Domestic Disability Agenda Through the UN

By Jewelles Smith, Chairperson, CCD

During her time as Chairperson of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and CCD's Social Policy Committee, Marie Ryan often commented that social policy in Canada was homeless because the conservative government of the day had little interest in human rights. Since then, we have a new ally to help us achieve an accessible and inclusive Canada – the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is made of 18 people with disabilities from around the world who have unique expertise on disability issues. Like us, the Committee members are passionate about disability rights and want to work with Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) to advance human rights.

The UN Committee reviews how countries that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are meeting the commitments they made when they signed the Convention. In April 2017, the Committee completed its review of Canada, which ratified the CRPD in 2010, and the Committee's Concluding Observations (CO) point out areas where Canada needs to do better. The CO was strengthened by the input received from Canadian DPOs and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities played a key role.

In December 2015, a number of DPOs asked CCD to serve as a secretariat to coordinate the development of a parallel, or shadow, report and appearances before the UN Committee in Geneva by representatives from the Canadian DPO. Canada had submitted a report to the Committee on behalf of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) governments, but the DPO wanted to elaborate on the F/P/T's perspective. As Steve Estey, who has staffed the secretariat, states, "While Canada's report to the Committee tells the truth, it is not necessarily the whole truth." Using the lens of lived experiences, the DPO's shadow report clarified for the Committee critical areas where Canadians with disabilities do not experience full enjoyment of our human rights. For example, sign languages, including ASL and LSQ, languages of Deaf Canadians, are not recognized as official languages in Canada.

During our meetings with the UN Committee in the summer of 2016 and in April 2017, the Committee had the benefit of our lived experience. As Chairperson of CCD and a contributor to the shadow report and a member of the 2016 and 2017 DPO delegations, I wanted to make certain that the Committee was aware of the themes that come up in our organizations: poverty, housing, employment (and unemployment), health, education, inclusion, stigma, cultural and social exclusion, and vulnerability for all groups during transition years (infancy to preschool/daycare, daycare to elementary school, elementary school to high school, high school to adulthood).

Our first delegation included Audrey-Anne Trudel, from CCD's member group in Quebec, COPHAN. In addition to serving on the delegation, Audrey-Anne made a significant contribution to the written submissions to the Committee thereby ensuring that the Committee heard the perspective of Quebec citizens with disabilities. For the second DPO delegation, we were fortunate that Neil Belanger, Executive Director of the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, was a member, since he addressed

how the cross-cutting factors of disability and Aboriginal status affect the enjoyment of human rights. Indeed, cross-cutting issues, such as those related to Indigenous people, women, Deaf people, and the LGBTQ2I+ community amongst others, were a focus of much of our work with the Committee.

On April 12, 2017, the UN Committee adopted its Concluding Observations (CO). In the CO, the Committee makes a number of recommendations to Canada. Many of these recommendations echo what CCD has been promoting. For example, the Committee recommended the enactment of a “comprehensive national action plan for implementing the CRPD in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, and in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations...”

The Committee has fast-tracked two of its recommendations: that Canada withdraw its declaration on CRPD article 12. 4 (legal capacity) and that Canada “adopt cross-sector strategies with a view to combat inequality and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including through the adoption of affirmative action, clear targets and collection of data on progress achieved disaggregated by age, sex, indigenous background, etc.” The Committee has asked Canada to report back on these matters in 12 months.

I urge the members of Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) to join with me to do two things: use the recommendations in the CO to hold Canadian politicians’ feet to the fire so that Canada’s F/P/T governments abide by the commitments that they made when Canada ratified the CRPD, and begin to gather the data that you would like to put before the UN Committee in 2020, following the submission of Canada’s next report.

Once again, the Committee will need our experiential knowledge of human rights and discrimination to have a complete picture of what it means to be a person living with a disability in Canada.

Submitted by
April D’Aubin

VI. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO MLPD

The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) is a registered charity. Tax receipts are issued for \$10.00 or more. And donations can be paid by cheque, Visa or MasterCard.

- ❖ In Memoriam - you can donate to MLPD in memory, honour or celebration of a loved one.
- ❖ United Way programs - you can identify MLPD as your charity of choice through your United Way contribution.
- ❖ A bequeath - you can designate MLPD as a benefactor in your Will or Insurance Policy.
- ❖ All Charities Campaign - Province of Manitoba
This system provides current and retired employees of the Manitoba Government and its affiliates with a convenient method of giving annually to registered charities of their choice. These donations can be made through payroll deduction. All you need to do is request that your donation be directed to the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Inc. (Charitable Business Registration No. 889197448RR0001).
- ❖ Designate funds to MLPD from a social or other fundraising event.

All money raised stays in Manitoba.

**Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Inc.
909-294 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0B9**

Ph: 204-943-6099 (Voice/TTY)
Toll Free: 1-888-330-1932
Email: contact@mlpd.mb.ca

VII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – MLPD
Statement of Financial Position – March 31, 2017

1. MANITOBA LEAGUE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INC.

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and short-term deposits	\$ 31,268	\$ 77,175
Accounts receivable	36,005	915
Rent receivable	6,820	
Prepaid expenses		84
	<u>74,093</u>	<u>78,174</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)		<u>315</u>
	<u>\$ 74,093</u>	<u>\$ 78,489</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 10,544	\$ 9,418
Deferred leasehold inducement		1,683
Deposit payable		1,200
	<u>10,544</u>	<u>12,301</u>
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 4)	<u>49,534</u>	<u>17,155</u>
	60,078	29,456
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets		315
Unrestricted	<u>14,015</u>	<u>48,718</u>
	<u>14,015</u>	<u>49,033</u>
	<u>\$ 74,093</u>	<u>\$ 78,489</u>

B. MANITOBA LEAGUE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INC.

**1. Statement of
Operations Year Ended
March 31, 2017**

	2017	2016
REVENUE		
Restricted grants		
Intern staff	\$ 7,302	\$
Program staff	3,808	
Oral history	7,486	2,320
Social enterprise	<u>15,000</u>	
	<u>33,596</u>	<u>2,320</u>
Unrestricted grants		
Private donations	7,856	18,460
Province of Manitoba - Department of Families	50,000	50,000
Council of Canadians with Disabilities	29,500	5,000
Social enterprise - Assiniboine Credit Union	4,000	
Rental revenue	4,372	23,341
Contract revenue	19,350	
Other	<u>2,277</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>117,355</u>	<u>96,821</u>
	150,951	99,141
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)	185,969	124,267
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (35,018)	\$ (25,126)

VIII. COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND MLPD STAFF

Provincial Council Members 2016-2017

Scott Browning	Rocco Scarcella
Colleen Watters	Allen Mankewich
Valerie Wolbert	Jesse Turner

MLPD Representative to CCD's Council – Carlos Sosa

Executive Committee Members 2016-2017

Chairperson – David Kron
Vice-Chair – Eva Beaudoin
Secretary – April D'Aubin
Treasurer – Fred Dugdale

MLPD Staff

Jennifer Sande – Provincial Coordinator
Emily Walker – Accessibility Program Manager
Julie Linge – Communications & Funding Development Officer
Josie Concepcion – Office Manager
Jennifer Recana – Administrative Assistant

This report is available in alternate media upon request.

