



Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

Annual Report 2015 - 2016



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 seen the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities realize many accomplishments. Productive discussions have taken place at the Committee and Council levels that have resulted in several new and promising ideas being conceived.

One such accomplishment was the completion of the Oral History project, which captured the stories and thoughts of several of our founding members. This project will be useful as we remember how far we have come, and the tireless efforts of our founders. It will also be an invaluable tool for future generations who may be interested in learning about the struggles that led to the creation of Handi-Transit public transportation, as well as the leadership role MLPD played in the inclusion of disabilities in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982). Please enjoy the presentation of the Oral History tonight, and if you would like to replay the audio files, visit our website at <http://www.mlpd.mb.ca/oralhistory.html>.

A very significant event this year was the June 17, 2016, enactment by Parliament of the federal Medical Aid in Dying law. Although the new law commits to not perpetuating disadvantage or social vulnerability, we are concerned that it does not fully address the concerns about vulnerability that have been raised by the disabilities community.

We look forward to many more years of continuing our good work as a membership-driven advocacy organization for the disabilities community. I know that many of the ideas that we develop this year will ultimately evolve into initiatives that will further the work of MLPD as we continue in our efforts to make Manitoba a better place for people with disabilities.

Allen Mankewich
MLPD Chairperson

II. PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT



2015-16 has been a great year for the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD). We have enjoyed an active year of events, community committees, and renewed connection with other organizations serving our community. We are also exploring new ways of sustainable funding.

We were proud to co-host Judith Heumann from the U.S. State Department, in December 2015. We were also pleased to participate in many events including the international pre-conference hosted by the DIO and CCDS on Claiming Full Citizenship, the CBC Access Denied series, and the Provincial consultation on the Home Care Program.

We are continuing to push for more community collaboration. The value of a collaborative model was demonstrated by the Disabilities Matters 2016 campaign, led by Barrier Free MB and Abilities MB, the success of which saw an overflowing Legislative Building for its kick-off rally. These displays of public solidarity send a very powerful message to policy makers and the larger Manitoba community. We want to keep that momentum going!

MLPD will be actively involved with implementing the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) with a new program: Accessibility Consulting Services (ACS), beginning later this year. The new MLPD Community Steering Committee will be a cross-disability collaboration that has been created to ensure all disabilities perspectives are heard and included in consultations. The Committee will review all ACS consulting materials to ensure all disabilities perspectives are considered.

Our financial challenges have continued to be a source of concern, but thanks to some newly formed partnerships and staff efforts, we are in a better position, with strong reason to be optimistic about the coming years. We have reduced expenses on rent and have invested in quality staff. Partnerships and collaborations with community and Provincial organizations have led to

opportunities to implement our mission of Accessibility and apply for new funding. We are excited to continue on this course for the next fiscal year with the goal to diversify our funding sources and ensure MLPD has increased control over its future. Recently, MLPD moved to 909 – 294 Portage Avenue. Sadly, it means the end of an era at 500 Portage and a ten year joint tenancy with Cerebral Palsy of Manitoba. But the move means big savings. CCD made us an offer we could not pass up and they have warmly welcomed us into their office.

Jennifer Sande
Provincial Coordinator

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is a summary of the Financial Statements for MLPD for 2015 – 2016 Year. We have the Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position. Please turn to pages 18 and 19 to view the Statements. MLPD has retained Tony Gauthier, CA, CPA as our Auditor 2015-2016 year.

Highlights:

- As planned, we spent some of our retained earnings (revenue) mostly on salaries and increased activities. We had an operating loss of \$25,126.00
- Restricted funds of \$5092.00 (Tracy Latimer Fund)
- Revenue of \$99,141. An increase over 2015 of \$1,712.00
- Cash at the end of year \$77,175.00
- Increase of Rental income from March of Dimes – Canada (MODC) & Cerebral Palsy of MB (CPAM). Increase of rental income of \$4385.00
- We had expenses of \$124,267 vs \$86,097. Major difference is the increase in Salaries & Benefits (Prov. Coordinator started in Nov, 2015)

Respectfully submitted by
David Kron, MLPD Treasurer

IV. MLPD OFFICE UPDATE

Office Manager – Josie Concepcion



I can't express how much I've learned, grown, and enjoyed working with all of you, the members of MLPD, for the last 38 years. It's been a wonderful journey to have met so many of you, and to have seen MLPD evolve over the decades. We have weathered adversity and challenges, yet we always focus on the issues important to our community and continue to serve as the grass roots voice of Manitobans with disabilities. I look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, and hope to see many of my friends and familiar faces at the Annual General Meeting!

Julie Linge – Communications and Fund Development Officer



I am delighted to be the new Communications and Fund Development Officer for MLPD. I have a professional background in communications, having worked as a Communications Officer for the Department of National Defence (DND) for 14 years.

Since February I have worked with Jennifer Sande on funding proposals, and our exciting new program: MLPD Accessibility Consulting Services. This fee-for-service program will allow us to fulfill our organizational mission by raising the profile of Accessibility in Manitoba's workplace culture. I hope to continue working with MLPD to serve our members and push for full inclusion of people with disabilities. Although many barriers still exist, I envision a community in the not too distant future where all people are valued and no one experiences barriers to full community participation.

Administrative Assistant – Jennifer Recana



I am currently working as an office assistant (intern) after being matched with MLPD by Reaching Equality Employment Service's (REES) Co-Op Program. I've only been at MLPD for the two months but I am certainly enjoying this learning opportunity. I'm happy that I get to be creative and use my design talents.

I look forward to future administrative work in an office environment, and am very happy that REES gave me the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with this proactive organization.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation

The transportation committee was inactive this year, but MLPD has maintained its contribution to the Handi-Transit Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

B. Ethics

The Ethics Committee deals with ethical issues related to people with disabilities as they are brought to the attention of MLPD. Over the past year, the Ethics Committee was kept very busy with the issue of Physician-Assisted Dying (PAD).

Background:

In February, 2014, the Criminal Code provisions related to physician-assisted dying (PAD) were struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada, and the federal government was given one year to develop suitable legislation. The deadline was later extended to June 6, 2016.

To promote dialogue among MLPD members we hosted a public forum on November 25, 2015, with 40 people in attendance. This event provided an

overview of the implications of the Supreme Court decision on PAD for Manitobans with disabilities, and an opportunity to raise questions about this important issue. The forum was moderated by Rhonda Wiebe, MLPD Ethics Committee member and Co-Chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) Ending of Life Ethics Committee (EOLEC).

Speakers included: Dean Richert, Member, MLPD Ethics Committee and Co-Chair, CCD EOLEC, Jim Derksen, MLPD Ethics Committee Member and Member of CCD EOLEC, Dr. Nancy Hansen, Director, Faculty of Disability Studies, University of Manitoba, and Dr. Merrill Pauls, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba and Emergency Physician, Health Sciences Centre. Laurie Beachell (former National Coordinator of the CCD) provided his reflections and a summary of the discussions that took place. CBC was present at the event, and a short piece appeared on the 11:00 P.M. news. Rhonda Wiebe, MLPD Ethics Committee member, revised the MLPD Will to Live Workbook to distribute to attendees.

The Ethics Committee followed up the forum with several activities: writing to Manitoba MPs to outline our concerns about PAD and provided submissions to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) and the Federal Panel on Physician-Assisted Death. We recommended that safeguards be implemented to protect vulnerable persons who might be induced to seek PAD in times of weakness and that an end-of-life review panel be established to deal with requests from physicians for PAD. This panel would refocus the alleged sole power invested in doctors to make decisions regarding PAD to a community-based body with the jurisdiction to review such cases and determine the best interests of patients and physicians facing such dilemmas.

On March 1, 2016, disability rights organizations and allies from across Canada called on Parliament to adopt a series of evidence-based safeguards to protect the lives of vulnerable Canadians. James Hicks represented the CCD at the Press Conference where the Standard was launched. The Vulnerable Persons Standard has been developed by leading Canadian physicians, health

professionals, lawyers, ethicists, public policy experts and national representative organizations of people with disabilities.

On April 14, 2016, the federal government introduced Bill C14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying). Bill C-14 only makes medical assistance in dying available to people who are experiencing intolerable suffering and whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable. This language narrows availability to people who are in the end stages of dying and serves to protect Canadians who are adjusting to newly acquired conditions and, as a result, may be undergoing a period of weakened resiliency.

The preamble of the Bill recognizes the importance of safeguards to "prevent errors and abuse in the provision of medical assistance in dying" and that "vulnerable persons must be protected from being induced, in moments of weakness, to end their lives." Regrettably the promise of the Preamble is not borne out by the substance of Bill C-14, which does little to address the concerns about vulnerability that have been raised by the disability community. The Bill did not provide for:

- An assessment of vulnerabilities that may be inducing a person to seek an assisted suicide.
- An expedited prior review and authorization by a judge or independent body with expertise in the fields of health care, ethics and law.

Following the release of Bill C14, MLPD wrote letters to Manitoba MPs expressing our views on the bill, and April D'Aubin, (MLPD Ethics Committee member) met with Robert-Falcon Ouellette to raise our issues. We also endorsed an open letter to Parliamentarians from the disability rights community.

The Province of Manitoba has also been working on physician-assisted dying. An assisted suicide team is currently in place to provide advice to physicians in the event that someone requests PAD. Provincial colleges, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM), the Colleges of Registered

Nurses of Manitoba and the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba also have protocols in place to deal with PAD. Provincial responsibility rests with the Ministers of Health and Justice. Dave Martin, Provincial Advisor on Disability, has forwarded the Vulnerable Persons Standard to key members of the government. MLPD plans to write to the Ministers of Health and Justice later in June once it is known whether Bill C14 becomes law.

Thank you to the MLPD Ethics Committee for your work over the past year: April D'Aubin, Clare Simpson, Jim Derksen, Ronda Wiebe, Dean Richert, Valerie Wolbert, Deanna Ng, Margot Miller, Paula Orecklin, Donna Buchanan and Eva Beaudoin.

Submitted by
Colleen Watters

VI. COUNCIL OF CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES (CCD) REPORT

This year the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) celebrates its 40th anniversary and our organization has a legacy of which we can be very proud, as we have contributed to some of the significant human rights advancements in this country, such as the inclusion of disability in the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Canada's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We have also been working internationally in solidarity with people with disabilities from other countries on an international disability rights movement.

CCD continues to be a:

- ❖ CONVENOR – bringing together the disability community, governments and others to remove barriers and create greater inclusion;
- ❖ INNOVATOR – informing and facilitating understanding of access and inclusion as it has evolved over the decades; and
- ❖ CONSENSUS BUILDER – developing a shared vision that facilitates progress and change.

CCD's committees (Ending of Life Ethics, Human Rights, International, Social Policy and Transportation) assist the National Council of Representatives by reviewing issues and developing responses to the barriers faced by Canadians with disabilities. Over the last 12 months, the committees have been very active, focusing on both policy reform and developing new ways of working at CCD. Additional people are being recruited to our Committees. For example, the Social Policy Committee has been reaching out to younger people and worked with a Disability Studies student who researched a paper focused on recruiting youth volunteers. There has been increased inter-committee communication to enable a coordinated response on broad policy issues that are a concern to more than one of our committees. Committees are testing novel areas of endeavor. For example, the Human Rights Committee raised revenue for CCD's Litigation Fund and educated lawyers about providing accessible and quality legal service to clients with disabilities by organizing a panel discussion which was approved by the Law Society of Upper Canada for Continuing Professional Development Hours. The International Committee is assisting the disability community develop a coordinated response to Canada's Initial Report to the UN CRPD Committee. CCD has a new committee to assist us respond to a proposed Canadians with Disabilities Act, or a National Disability Act, as it is being referred to by Minister Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, who was given responsibility for this legislation by Prime Minister Trudeau.

Our committees are preparing us to meet the next 40 years with the same vigor as in previous years but with a contemporary outlook and approach. CCD has always had a collaborative relationship with Independent Living Canada (ILC) and over the last two years, the two organizations explored new ways to work together. A tangible outcome was the #DTCForAll campaign. From the time of the federal election campaign until December 3rd, #DTCForAll promoted the concept of a refundable Disability Tax Credit, using a combination of social media and traditional methods. The Party leaders, and then newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and the public heard our call about

making the DTC available to the people who need it most by making it a refundable tax credit.

This year CCD's human rights message was shared with a number of allies and Canadian leaders. Very early in her term, the new Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) Marie Claude Landry requested to meet with CCD, as did Scott Streiner, Chairperson, Member, and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA). It speaks to the credibility that CCD has achieved over the past 40 years that the Chief Commissioner of the CHRC and the Chief Executive Officer of the CTA sought meetings with CCD. CCD also welcomed the Federal Government's decision to reinstate funding to the Court Challenges Program, which provides resources for challenging laws and government programs that violate the equality provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In December, CCD partnered with the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, to organize the 2015 reception celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), which had as its theme: Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment of People with All Abilities. IDPD's theme can only be achieved through implementation of the CRPD and CCD emphasized these expectations to the Minister.

In the next 40 years, informing and facilitating Canadians' understanding of human rights in the context of disability will continue to be an important CCD responsibility, because by sharing our human rights message we contribute to the evolving understanding of access and inclusion. But our work is far from completion, as too many persons with disabilities are excluded from society by social, physical and financial barriers, which condemn us to poverty. A strong CCD is as necessary today, as when it was first founded.

Submitted by
Tony Dolan, CCD Past Chair

VII. SPECIAL EVENTS

The United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)

In December 2015, MLPD partnered with the Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) and the US Consulate (Winnipeg) to celebrate the International Day of Persons with



John Young, President of the CMHR, posing with Allen Mankewich, MLPD, and Judith Heumann, US Department of State.

Disabilities (IDPD). The IDPD has been held for over a decade in our province, and is a time to mark both the successes and challenges of the disabilities rights movement. Together we organized a speaking tour for American disability and civil rights advocate Ms. Judith Heumann, an international leader among disability rights advocates from the US Department of State and Special Advisor for International Disability Rights.

Ms. Heumann was our keynote speaker on December 09, 2015, at the Viscount Gort Hotel. Her presentation examined lessons from the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). MLPD wanted to hear Ms. Heumann's perspective on the 25th Anniversary of ADA since she has had over 30 years advancing disability legislation around the world.

MLPD was naturally very interested in learning how ADA has progressed over the past quarter century, and what lessons we can learn from it as Manitoba is currently implementing its own Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA). A strong focus of the presentation was on employment (which supported current research for the second accessibility standard under the AMA).

Following the presentation, the audience viewed the documentary film “Lives Worth Living”, which featured Ms. Heumann and the journey to accessibility legislation in the United States.



Still Photo from “Lives Worth Living”

The next day, December 10, Ms. Heumann spoke about the History of the Disability Rights Movement at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR), where her own early activism is featured in a fourth floor museum display.



From left to right - Dave Martin, Disability Issues Office (DIO), his assistant Paul Samra, and Nicole Gareau-Wilson, DIO, at the CMHR Garden of Contemplation.



**Justine Kiwanuka and
Allen Mankewich**



Dr. Nancy Hansen



**From left to right: Judith
Heumann, Angela Cassie,
Laurie Beechell, and Dr.
Olga Krassioukova-Enns**



From left to right: Walter Chan, Dr. Nancy Hansen and Clare Simpson



Lisa Snider and Allen Mankewich at the CMHR Contemplation Garden



Grant funding presented to MLPD by Chris Gunning, U.S. Consulate (center) with Allen Mankewich, Jennifer Sande, and Yutta Fricke (DIO)



From left to right: April D'Aubin, Dr. Olga Krassioukova-Enns and Diane Driedger

VIII. PLEASE CONSIDER Supporting the work of MLPD

The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) is a registered charity. Tax receipts are issued, and donations are accepted on our website or by cheque, Visa or MasterCard.

There are many ways to provide financial support:

- ❖ All Charities Campaign - Province of Manitoba employees can conveniently give to MLPD through a payroll deduction;
- ❖ In Memoriam – a donation to MLPD in memory, honour, or celebration of a loved one;
- ❖ United Way programs – choose MLPD as your charity of choice through your United Way contribution;
- ❖ A bequest – designate MLPD as a benefactor in your Will or Insurance Policy;
- ❖ Designate funds to MLPD from a social or other fundraising event.

Our staff are available to assist you in making these arrangements.
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

IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – MLPD
Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2016, Audited

ASSETS

CURRENT

Cash and short-term deposits	\$ 77,175
Accounts Receivable	915
Prepaid Expenses	<u>84</u>
	78,174

CAPITAL ASSETS

315

\$ 78,489

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LIABILITIES, DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 9,418
Deferred leasehold inducement	1,683
Deposit payable	<u>1,200</u>
	\$ 12,301

DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

17,155

29,456

NET ASSETS

Invested in capital assets	315
Internally restricted	31,041
Unrestricted	<u>17,677</u>

49,033

\$ 78,489

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Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2016, (Audited)

REVENUE

Province of Manitoba	
Family Services	\$ 50,000
Council of Canadians with Disabilities	5,000
Community grants, donations, fees, and sundry	
CanadaHelps	1,525
Donations	4,701
Fundraising	20
Rental	23,341
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba (M. Rosner Memorial Fund)	1,076
Oral History	2,320
US Consulate	9,773
Run for Rights	<u>1,385</u>
	\$ 99,141

EXPENSES

124,267

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

(\$ 25,126)

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This financial document has been approved by:



Chairperson, MLPD



Treasurer

X. FUNDERS, COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND MLPD STAFF

**Thanks to All Our Funders and Corporate Donors
Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!**

Province of Manitoba Family Services
The Allan Simpson Fund
The Abe and Bertha Arnold Fund
Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD)
US State Department
Assiniboine Credit Union
The United Way of Winnipeg
The Micheal J. Rosner Fund, (Administered by The Jewish Foundation of MB)

Provincial Council Members 2015-2016

April D'Aubin	Carlos Sosa
Zephania Matanga	Danielle Otto
Mindy Tucker	Jesse Turner
Colleen Watters	David Kron
Allen Mankewich	Valerie Wolbert

Executive Committee Members 2015-2016

Chairperson – Allen Mankewich
Secretary – April D'Aubin
Treasurer – David Kron

*This report is available in alternate media upon request.

A United Voice of Persons with Disabilities in Manitoba



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