**2024 Year End Review**

**Executive Director’s Report**

Hello Members, Donors, and Friends,

It’s great to connect again as we celebrate another year of wonderful work at MLPD. I’m proud of our team's accomplishments this year.

Our social enterprise efforts have doubled, working with over 20 community reviewers to create a more inclusive Manitoba. We are also doing some great work alongside Indigenous communities. Earlier this spring, we organized an All Spirits Gathering where we partnered with Indigenous organizations to create an accessible ceremony. We continue to work with our partners to ensure that future full moon ceremonies in Winnipeg will be accessible to all.

Thanks to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, we hosted several community events, including a disability pride celebration, a self-defense training, and a discussion session on bringing the community together in times of struggle.

We are committed to amplifying community voices, particularly through the S(NO)W Plow campaign, which raises awareness for clear sidewalks in Winnipeg. We've also had the opportunity to speak with several provincial ministers including Minister Fontaine, Minister Cable, and Minister Bushie. We look forward to continuing to build on these relationships and strengthening the voice of lived experience in our community.

We welcomed Ella Rockar as our Outreach and Communications Coordinator. She has enhanced our social media presence, rebooted our monthly newsletters, and is working on initiatives for service animal inclusivity and polling station accessibility. Debby has also been invaluable, handling over 100 calls related to housing, disability parenting, and workplace discrimination, and advocating for transit issues. I appreciate Sheryl, my right-hand person, for her support with our accessibility reviewers and her instrumental work connecting with Indigenous communities.

Thank you to our members and donors; your support keeps MLPD thriving. As we continue to strengthen the organization, we hope to further represent the voices and members and invigorate our membership base. I look forward to coming together with you creating new and exciting possibilities for MLPD.

I hope you enjoy this year’s review and consider supporting us.

In solidarity,

Melissa Graham, Executive Director

**Council Chair’s Report**

This year, MLPD’s Provincial Council has been focused on three key goals: crafting a long-term strategy, diversifying our revenue sources, and expanding our membership. We welcomed new faces to the Council, and with their help, we're making big strides towards these objectives. One exciting project underway is the establishment of a fundraising committee dedicated to building an innovative, sustainable funding strategy. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that preparations for MLPD's 50th-anniversary community event are in full swing! This grand celebration, set for the summer of 2025, will highlight MLPD's rich history and its invaluable contributions to the accessibility movement. The event will showcase our diverse community's incredible talents, perspectives, and achievements. Stay tuned for event updates and opportunities to show your support!

If you would like to get involved in a council project or committee or would like to learn more about the opportunities available, please reach out to us at provincialcouncil@mlpd.mb.ca.

Jennifer Breddam, Council Chair

**We Rely on Donations**

As a not-for-profit organization, every dollar raised goes directly to fund our advocacy efforts, events, and programs in the community.

To donate, visit mlpd.mb.ca/donate

For other donation options or for assistance making a donation, please contact us:

By phone: 204-943-6099

By email: contact@mlpd.mb.ca

**Social Enterprise Projects**

Various businesses and organizations around Manitoba engage MLPD to conduct accessibility reviews of their physical spaces, policies and documents, to deliver presentations, and to provide accessibility training. We hire and train people in the community with lived experience of disability to be our accessibility reviewers and we provide honoraria for their time and experience.

Thank you to our 2024 clients!

Bison Transport

Canadian Mental Health Association

Charles Sinclair School

City of Winnipeg

Elections Canada

The Forks

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

Klinic Community Health

Payne Transport

Peg City Car Co-op

T.E.A.M.S. Transport

**Grant-Funded Projects**

**Accessibility Awareness Week:** With an Indigenous organizing committee, we planned and held a webinar ‘We Journey Together’ and a half-day gathering at the Forks ‘All Spirits Gathering’ for inclusive discussion and celebration of culture, disability and Gifts.

**Building Bridges:** Through a New Horizons for Seniors Program Grant, we are bringing Indigenous Elders together with youth with disabilities to exchange knowledge and build relationships.

**Community Conversation Series:** With a grant from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba we connect in-person to talk about issues affecting our community.

**Community Navigation Project:** With a Winnipeg Foundation Grant, we provide peer support for community members with disabilities navigating social systems.

**Community Navigators Training:** With a Community Navigators Training Local Investment Toward Employment Grant, we are training peer supporters to provide peer-to-peer advocacy.

**Community Engagement**

**CEDNET Policy Summit:** Working together with other non-profit organizations in the city to draft policies that are submitted to the Province on social issues that affect our communities.

**Chāpān:** As part of the Organizing Committee, we helped plan a Truth and Reconciliation Day event bringing together settler and Indigenous communities to recognize, support, and heal through laughter.

**Community Advisory Committees:** MLPD contributes to Right 2 Housing, Make Poverty History, Our Health Counts, Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Committee, and Winnipeg Transit Plus Advisory Committee.

**Full Moon Ceremonies:** As part of the Organizing Committee, we plan and attend monthly ceremonies at the Forks to honour Grandmother Moon, share teachings about the feminine energies, and heal.

**Government Advocacy:** Meeting with Provincial Ministers including Minister Fontaine, Minister Cable, and Minister Bushie.

**Hey Cuzzin:** Attended the National Indigenous Peoples Day event at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre.

**Mobility Fair:** As part of the Organizing Committee, and as a participant with a table at the event, we provided resources and knowledge about accessible mobility options and active transportation in Winnipeg.

**Presentations:** This year, MLPD has presented at the CEDNET Gathering, University of Manitoba, Western Canada Water American Waste Works Association Conference, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada Conference, and more!

**Pride Parade Winnipeg:** MLPD joined the Cerebral Palsy Association and Manitoba Possible marchers and float in support of 2SLGBTQI+ disability rights and recognition.

**S(NO)W Plow Campaign:** A coalition led by MLPD that lobbies the city for better sidewalk snow clearing in Winnipeg. The community can post photos and videos of the snow barriers they experience on Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities wishes you a fantastic 2025!**

Want to support our work? Donate today! As a not-for-profit organization,

every dollar raised goes directly to fund our advocacy efforts, events, and programs in the community. Visit mlpd.mb.ca/donate

Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

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