



Child and Youth Care Workers' Association of Manitoba

2004-2005 Report to the Annual Meeting of
Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations June 3- 4 2005

2003-2005 have been years of renewal and regeneration for CYCWAM. We re-instituted our newsletter in the spring of 2003 with a new title "Lifespace". In 2003, we published the Lifespace newsletter quarterly. In 2004, we published two or three issues, and the year 2005 has been problematic, with no newsletter thus far. We are currently working on a 2005 Spring and Summer issue. Hopefully we'll get something out end of June, 2005. However, we did send out a flyer to all members in Winter 2005 with the Canadian Council newsletter enclosed. We are having difficulties with the workload and very few active Board members sharing workload responsibilities.

The 2004 CYCWAM Annual General Meeting was a successful event. The keynote speaker was the Provincial Child Abuse Investigator Alana Brownlee. It was well attended (for us) and the 2004 new Board was elected.

2004-2005 has been devoted to re-establishing the activities of the Board, and clarifying roles and responsibilities at that level. We have also prioritized getting our new website up and running. We have not had much success in this area for a variety of reasons, including losing our student web designer in 2004. We hope to have the website available for September 2005. As you can see, much time over the past two years has been devoted to rebuilding the infrastructure of this Association.

We had a general meeting for all members in October 2005 which was a "lunch and learn" event. This event was highlighted by presentations by two prominent local child and youth care speakers in the area of sexual exploitation in the Province of MB: Jackie Anderson from Ma MaWi Wi Chi Itata Centre and Amanda Machelek from Marymount. The provincial coordinator of the sexual exploitation project was also in attendance. The student representatives for the 2005 Board were elected. This was a successful event for CYCWAM and MB cyc practitioners.

We continue to co-sponsor the Annual Grad Luncheon event with Red River College each year. This year the keynote speaker was the Minister of Housing and Family Services.

We are re-visiting the Association by-laws with a view to rewriting them by December 2005.

We have strategized a membership drive as the priority for 2005. We are very aware that we still do not adequately represent a broad base of child and youth care practitioners in this province. Most of our membership base is made up of corporate agency partners and student members. We have very few "regular" individual members. We have some good ideas around fundraising and events designed to attract new members. These will hopefully be implemented in the fall of 2005.

We are prioritizing our certification initiative for 2005-2006. We are revisiting the original proposal with a view to revising both the levels and grandfathering requirements. A draft copy is attached for your interest. This should be completed by Winter 2005, or Spring 2006. We intend to write a letter to the Minister and open informal discussions with the Deputy Minister regarding provincial support for certification. The certification project was put on hold in 2004 as the Board determined we first needed to concentrate on expanding our membership base so that the Association accurately and fairly represents child and youth care practitioners in the Province. Dawne is following the activities of the standards committee to help us determine where MB should go from here.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawne MacKay-Chiddenton
Secretary
CYCWAM