

# CONTINUITY NEWS



Supporting families in Manitoba to plan for an enriched quality of life for their family member with an intellectual disability

JUNE 2011

## From the Office



Spring has taken a while to arrive, but we are so glad it is finally here so we can get out and enjoy the warm, sunny weather. Unfortunately with the arrival of Spring, many Manitobans are now faced with flooding and are desperately fighting to save their homes, properties and livelihoods. Our thoughts are with them and it is reassuring to see how neighbours and communities are coming together to face this crisis together.

At Continuity Care, our staff, Committees and Board members have also had a busy spring. All of our Committees have been active throughout the winter and spring seasons. The Family Advisory Committee has been providing direction and support for our program and services and updating the Advocacy Guidelines, which will be a component of the Sharing Circle of Support Program. The Human Resources Committee has been updating the Human Resource Policy Manual, redefining the Administrative Assistant position and assisting with the hiring of new Sharing Circle Facilitators. The Fundraising Committee has been working on the plans for next year's Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic, along with other event committee members from the Manitoba Moose Yearling Foundation. The Board continues to meet throughout the year on a monthly basis and has approved the new budget and goals for 2011-12.

I am pleased to announce that Liz Allen, who has been an integral part of Continuity Care for the past three years, has a new title and set of responsibilities as Accounting and Administration Coordinator. Liz has been busy with our fiscal year end, processing membership renewals and taking care of registrations and arrangements for our workshops. Thank you Liz for your continued hard work and the skills and experience you bring to Continuity Care.

I am also pleased to share that we have had several successful workshops this past spring and winter. We had added the option of participating via teleconference and it has been a great way to connect with families and service providers in rural and northern communities. I have also been able to travel to some rural and northern communities to do presentations and through this we have increased awareness about Continuity Care.

Throughout the year, we have seen an increase in people wanting to be added to our mailing list and also who have become members of Continuity Care. Welcome to our new members and we look forward to getting to know you through our programs and services and hope that you are able to connect with other members as well. I would also like to thank our existing members and lifetime members for their continued support.

With June fast approaching, we are focusing on completing the last of our Spring workshop series, wrapping up our support groups and planning for our Annual General meeting.

Best wishes for a safe and sunny Manitoba summer,

Executive Director



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Winnipeggers rose to the challenge between April 18 - 21, contributing \$406,212 to 129 local charities through The Winnipeg Foundation's 90-Hour Giving Challenge, an initiative in celebration of their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**We are pleased to announce that Continuity Care received 16 gifts during the challenge totaling \$1,126.10 and an additional \$416.84 in matching grants from the Foundation.**

On behalf of Continuity Care's members, Board and staff, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for all those who made generous contributions to our Endowment Fund during this challenge.

We would also like to thank the Winnipeg Foundation for the opportunity to take part in the 90 Hour Giving Challenge. This was a great opportunity to promote all of the agency endowment funds, including our own and also test out how organizations can use social media to promote our efforts.

As a result of this initiative, Continuity Care is exploring how we can use tools, such as Facebook as a way of connecting with our members and others through the world wide web.



## Endowment Fund Update

Our Endowment Fund held with The Winnipeg Foundation was established in 1998. A goal of 2 million dollars was set by the Capital Campaign Board of Directors to sustain the basic operation of our organization in perpetuity. **As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the market value of our fund was \$1,934,425.95. We're getting closer!**

Continuity Care does not rely on government funding. This was important to the founding Board members, as they wanted to remain autonomous to provide advocacy to families when needed. We depend on our Endowment Fund to cover our core operating expenses.



We do not actually have access to the whole \$1.9 million in our Endowment Fund. The Winnipeg Foundation invests and manages our fund, in addition to over 170 others. All of the funds are pooled together and collectively earn a rate of return. Each year, we receive quarterly payments from the interest earned on our fund based on the spending policy set by The Winnipeg Foundation. This year the spending policy is 4.6%. Our fund currently does not cover all of our yearly operating costs, therefore, we continue to fundraise and seek out grant opportunities.

We need your assistance to make us financially secure and a donation to our fund will help sustain our organization.

Donations can be made by credit card at [www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org) or cheques can be made out to Continuity Care's Endowment Fund and mailed directly to:



The Winnipeg Foundation  
1350 – One Lombard Place  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X3



# Tough New Measures Proposed to Protect Manitobans with Intellectual Disabilities

Manitoba is proposing a new adult abuse registry as well as tough new offences and penalties to better protect adults with intellectual disabilities, Family Services and Consumer Affairs Minister Gord Mackintosh announced on May 11, 2011.

The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act (VPA) was created in 1996 to provide protection for people with an intellectual disability while respecting their individual rights. The proposed changes address a gap in the act that has made it difficult to charge anyone for abuse or neglect of an adult with an intellectual disability.


The new adult abuse registry, a first of its kind in Canada, would include the names of those who abuse or neglect vulnerable adults and would be used by employers to screen potential employees or volunteers. The registry would provide protection by preventing individuals who abuse or neglect vulnerable people from working with them in the future, Mackintosh said.

Employers providing services to persons with intellectual disabilities would be required to conduct a search of the adult registry before employing new workers or volunteers. The registry is expected to be operational in spring 2012, Mackintosh said.

There are two ways that an individual would be put on the registry. Individuals convicted of an offence against a vulnerable person under any Act would be automatically placed on the registry. Where there is no conviction, a person could be referred to the adult abuse registry committee, which would determine if that person should be placed on the registry based on a finding that abuse or neglect occurred.

The adult abuse registry committee would be appointed and consist of at least three members. Individuals who could be placed on the registry by the committee would be notified in advance and have the right to appeal that decision.

In addition to the registry, several new provisions are being proposed to protect Manitobans with intellectual disabilities. These would mean:

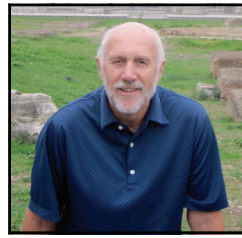
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- No one could abuse or neglect an adult with an intellectual disability
  - Service providers or substitute decision makers would have a duty to take all reasonable steps to protect an individual
  - Anyone who is aware of abuse or neglect would have a duty to report it
  - Anyone who reports abuse or neglect, including employees of service agencies, would be protected from retaliation

The penalties would be increased to a maximum of \$50,000 from a maximum of \$2,000 and/or 24 months in jail up from a maximum of six months. The timeline to launch a prosecution would also be lengthened to two years from six months.

This would be the first phase of the adult abuse registry, Mackintosh said, covering those who abuse or neglect adults with an intellectual disability. The next phase would cover those people who are in health-care facilities, such as personal care homes and hospitals, expected to be proposed next session, he said, adding it is expected the registry will continue expanding over time to cover other vulnerable populations in the future.

*(Source - Government of Manitoba News Release from May 11th, 2011  
The full release is available at [www.gov.mb.ca/news](http://www.gov.mb.ca/news) )*

# Welcome a Board, Terry



Terry Williams has recently joined the Board of Continuity Care. Terry has been married for 28 years and has three adult children. He has worked in the Social Services field for over 30 years, in the areas of Corrections and Child Welfare. He is currently a Supervisor with Winnipeg Child and Family Services. His family has also volunteered with Special Olympics for many years. Terry was invited to join the Board by Merv Gunter, one of Continuity Care's original Board Members. As a new Board Member, Terry would like "to assist the Board in planning activities and offer another set of hands to accomplish goals". We are pleased to have Terry on the Board of Continuity Care and welcome the perspectives and experience that he brings.

## Board of Directors 2010 - 2011

**President** Jane Schledewitz  
**Past President** Linda Ormonde  
**Secretary** Jo Verstraete  
**Treasurer** Merv Gunter

### Members at Large

Adeline Berg Jeoff Chipman  
Dolly Chudnow Brian Coughlin  
Art Hock Jason Dyck  
Karen Leggat Terry Williams

### Staff

Suzanne Swanton Liz Allen  
**Executive Director** **Accounting &  
Admin Coordinator**

## Facilitators Wanted

Continuity Care is currently looking to hire Facilitators for our new Sharing Circle of Support Program for Selkirk and Altona areas.

### What is involved?

One year contract  
Flexible schedule mainly evenings & weekends  
Approx. 3-5 hrs per month, per circle  
Approx. 2-3 circles per Facilitator  
Training and supervision provided  
Criminal Record & Child Abuse Registry checks  
Ability to work independently and as a team

For more information, please contact Suzanne at 779-1679 or by email at [info@continuitycare.ca](mailto:info@continuitycare.ca)

## Did you know that Continuity Care is offering our members the option of participating in our workshops via teleconference?

Continuity Care has found that offering our workshops by teleconference is an innovative and effective method of offering information to our members, particularly those who live in rural and northern communities.

You can participate from the comfort of your home, office or location of your choice. At the appointed time, you dial in to the telephone number provided, enter an access code and participate in our workshop as if you were in the room.

Stay tuned for our next series our workshops beginning in the Fall.

**Don't forget to renew your membership with Continuity Care**

**1 Year Family Membership \$20**  
**Lifetime Family Membership \$250**

With your membership enjoy free workshops during the year, voting privileges at AGM, one to one planning and a copy of The Circle of Life workbook.

We are now able to accept membership fees and donations by VISA or MasterCard



(see our website for a membership form)

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