

Message from the President



As the year wraps up my first term as President of ACL Manitoba, I find myself experiencing a state of grace and gratitude. I truly feel honoured to be holding this office in an organization that has wonderful individuals working within and marvelous community support. Here are the highlights as I experienced them.

My work with ACL has always been with the provincial association so when I took this position I felt it was important for me to visit some local groups to help me gain a better understanding of the work they do. In June I was warmly received in Swan River where I toured their facility, met with Board members, and parents involved in the connections Program, plus spoke at their well-attended annual general meeting. Beausejour was the next stop. That visit began with the People First meeting followed by an enthusiastic drumming circle, and ended with the annual general meeting. Thank you to everyone who made these experiences so gratifying and fun.

The Justice Conference held in November made me realize that this was a step toward promoting awareness of issues that people with disabilities face in the justice system and created an opportunity for their voices and those who support them to be heard.

As the Manitoba representative, CACL Board meetings, task forces, and committee participation have provided me with the larger picture not to mention expanded my network of amazing people who work diligently toward the best possible outcome for all, nationally and internationally. The work is hard, the issues intense, the energy high, the commitment passionate, and I've enjoyed every minute of it.

The opportunity to co-facilitate the spring Family Leadership Retreat in Gimli offered a chance to meet and connect with other parents. The wisdom and laughter shared during that weekend shall remain in my memory banks for quite some time. I look forward to participating in future leadership retreats and recommend that parents wishing to develop skills to better help them plan for their children sign up. Creating quality of life for our children is a meaningful goal and worth every effort.

In supporting my daughter, Milli, who was doing her part in promoting the Manitoba Marathon, I was able to gain insight into the immense organizing engine that makes this event such an enormous success. It is a brilliant example of what can happen when thousands of individuals get together to do their own part in making a difference and it was indeed a thrill to contribute in some way.

The year was not without blemishes and challenges, however the staff and board are consummate professionals and this reflects in the decisions that are made and actions taken. It doesn't really matter how we may have stumbled. What is important is that we have faced the blocks head on, learned from the experiences and transformed our weaknesses into a source of strength.

Of course none of this wonderful "stuff" could have happened without the support

and participation of other people. My heart felt appreciation goes to my sister/fellow Board members, the staff, and service contractors all of whom share their ideas, wisdom, commitment and creativity willingly.

Comfortably overwhelmed is an expression that I used at a meeting recently and I later recognized this as an indicator that I'm about through past my comfort zone. This is exactly as it is meant to be - it's "feel the fear and do it anyway" time, to reach higher, not just for me but for all of us. I recently read and shared the thought that when faced with an obstacle, if we make our goals worthier than what's blocking us we can create the potential to reach beyond our comfort zone and achieve those goals. I welcome your participation and look forward with anticipation as we stretch into our future with optimism, confidence, and foresight.

Aspirations into Possibilities

Rose A. Flaig

In 2002-2003 we will undertake



Family Support Efforts Including:

- Individual advocacy for situations of families
- Promotion of the National Family Agenda
- Family Leadership Retreats
- Promotion of the Regal Family Help Line
- Demonstration Project on Respite Services (ACL Winnipeg)
- Organizing Parent Participation in Parent/Child Centred Approaches (25 Coalitions)
- Participation in the Children's Coalition
- Participation in the National Children's Agenda
- Support to the Down Syndrome Conference May 2002
- Participation in the Special Education Review
- Communication to families on a wide range of issues (website, newsletters, bulletins)

Community Inclusion:

HRDC funds initiatives in these areas;

- Family Support
- Human Rights
- Leadership
- PAR Evaluation

\$140,0000 in funding has been secured for 2002 – 2003

Justice:

- Follow up to the Community, Cops, Courts, Crown & Corrections Conference, Nov 2001
- Pursuit of a four-part project with Manitoba Justice
 - Equal Justice Team
 - Victim's Services – Victim's Bill of Rights
 - Corrections – re-entry to community and training
 - Court – Alternatives including Family Court
- Community Mobilization funding being pursued
- And Justice for Families – a proposal has been developed. Funding being pursued.

Training:

We intend to develop and promote a wide array of training including:

- Sexuality
- Gentle Teaching
- Preparing for Inclusion
- Creative Facilitation
- Board Training
- Red River College – Advisory Committee
- Tools for Change
- Conferences:
 - Down Syndrome
 - MSEN
 - Opportunity Fund Celebration
 - Rekindle the Flame
 - John McKnight

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome:

- FAS Adults – follow up to March 7-8 Think Tank
- Family Association – we provide encouragement
- MLCC – Awareness Campaign
- Coalition on Alcohol and Pregnancy – We coordinate 160 agencies in this coalition. Dale is the chair of this coalition (CAP).
- FAS Newsletter - Celebration of Accomplishments

National:

We support CACL in the following major areas:

- Family Agenda
- Striking a New Balance
- Strategic Initiatives

Government Liaison:

We focus on the following issues:

- 12 Days Revisited
- Round Table
- Full Citizenship Report
- Early Childhood Development Committee
- Government Restructuring

Fund Raising:

- Marathon – Father's Day, June 16
- Chair Auction – scheduled for March 21, 2003
- Day at the Races – being examined as a possibility
- Dinners – being considered

Education:

- Legislation – to be introduced shortly
- Special Education Review – recommendations are being implemented. We are part of an Advisory Committee.
- FAS Booklet & Training
- 33 questions to the Minister from February 26th –

follow up required

Self Advocacy – People First:

- \$ support to People First of Manitoba
- Administration support to People First Inclusion Grant
- People First of Canada office relocates to Winnipeg for May 1, 2002

Employment:

- MSEN – involved in 40 agency coalitions
- Opportunity Fund – administer a project on behalf of 8 agencies and 25 people
- Kaplan Report – Supported Employment Review
- Work Incentives – examine impact
- Day Program Resolution – discussion at Board Meetings
- Joint Government Community Committee on EAPD
 - 15 agencies that meet quarterly with 4 Departments of Government
- 2003 Supported Employment conference in Winnipeg

Other:

- Aging – Winnserv proposing a Conference for 2004
- Aboriginal Issues – under strategic examination of what to do
- National Conference – CACL in Toronto (November 3rd to 5th, 2002)
- Awareness Campaign – being discussed at Board Meeting
- Women's Issues – Tara will lead this project dealing with Parents with a Disability
- Genetic Technology – Paula to complete current phase of the project – Values and Ethics (CACL) to take lead
- Centre of Excellence for Children – involved in this coalition
- RHA Issues Committee – promoting common training, looking at housing and family issues and demo projects
- Kids in Care – being examined
- Youth – would like to do something here. First attempt failed
- Review of Issues from the Millennium Process (Sept 2000)
 - Citizenship / Human Rights
 - Membership Issues (involving younger families)
 - Leadership
 - Communication
 - Setting Provincial Goals

And Justice Continues...



"Community, Cops, Court, Crown, Corrections" was a unique event and ACL-Manitoba was proud to co-host it with the Manitoba Department of Justice. Nov 22-24, 2001

Documentation, recommendations and the many issues that arose are available to everyone on the ACL web site (www.mts.net/~aclmb/). Have a look and call Marsha Dozar at 786-1607 at the ACL-Manitoba office if you have any questions.

The Executive, at its January meeting, discussed and approved a four-pronged strategy for the next stage of the Association's justice-related work as follows:

ACL recognizes how frightening and overwhelming the issues surrounding safety and vulnerability are for families supporting family members with intellectual disabilities.

Throughout the province, we have heard families ask for more information on the Vulnerable Person's Act to help them understand in what ways the legislation truly protects the rights of their sons, daughters, sisters and brothers.

"And Justice For Families" has been funded by the Federal Department of Justice and will, over the next year, develop a thoughtful and systematic dialogue in four or five Manitoba communities.

Through the process of providing information, education and opportunities to talk about fears, concerns and solutions, it is hoped that families will begin to feel less afraid, stronger and more confident around these potentially confounding and frightening issues.

The Province of Manitoba recently proclaimed its Victim's Bill of Rights legislation. ACL will work closely with the Department of Justice provincially to ensure that the legislation is fully understandable, accessible and accommodates the needs of people with intellectual disabilities who are victimized and their families.

People with intellectual disabilities who offend are being thrown into the same court and penal system as non-handicapped persons. They are vulnerable in both of these systems and often experience severe victimization.

ACL, in close cooperation with the Department of Justice provincially, is in the process of developing some innovative strategies around people with intellectual disabilities (including FASD-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders) who offend.

This component of ACL's work will focus on both assisting in the planning and support of persons coming out of correctional institutions as well as referring or diverting people who offend out of the court system and into more helpful and appropriate community resources.

In addition to the above three initiatives, we will continue the important relationship-building with the many Justice professionals, through training, seminars, Safety Networks, consultations, etc.

Eight years ago, when we began our work in this particular area, we invited Bob Perske to come and talk with us about the issues. His talk was titled "The Dark Side of Inclusion" and when he left, we did indeed feel dark and unfamiliar as we began building our action plan.

But, as Dale Kendel recently said, "we may not have solved the problems in the past eight years, but our feet are firmly planted in the right direction and we are now walking side by side with the police, crown, judges and other partners, all workings towards the same solution!"

Anyone wanting more information, or wanting to be involved in any of the above initiatives, can contact Marsha Dozar at 786-1607.

Challenges for the Future



Dale Kendel, Executive Director

At our AGM October 13th, 2001 delegates from local associations and the Board of Directors were challenged to consider 17 resolutions that direct policy and programs for the future.

We were challenged to develop a capacity within the organization (Board, volunteers, staff) to address:

- Family Support Issues
- Human Rights & Justice Issues
- Children's Issues
- Education Issues
- Quality of Services based on the principles of
 - participation
 - presence
 - choice/rights
 - respect
 - competence
- Issues in Direct Services – Residential and Day Program
- Fund Raising & Communication
- Training
 - values
 - specialty issues
 - leadership development
- Individual Advocacy

We were encouraged to launch Board Training with local ACL's and affiliates to address:

- 1) Community responsibility and understanding of our Mission Statements
- 2) Understanding the Vulnerable Persons Act
- 3) Examining Quality of Life Issues, Individual Planning and Inclusion
- 4) Leadership for the future

We were encouraged to pursue issues in Day Services addressing:

- Options for individuals
- Transition Planning
- Quality of current services
- Evaluation of programs

We were challenged to address:

- FAS and Adults
- Deinstitutionalization
- Full Citizenship Report of the Provincial Government with emphasis on:

- Disability Supports
 - Work Incentives
 - Trust Fund
 - Disability Lens
 - Vulnerable Persons Act- VPA
 - Special Education Review
 - Staff Stabilization Initiative of the Provincial Government
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Reaching Higher

When the challenges become more difficult and the obstacles become more daunting, respond by reaching higher. When the difficulties holding you back become strong, let your desire to get through them grow even stronger. There is no limit to the goals you can set for yourself or to the dreams you can hold in your heart. So make your dreams bigger than your problems. More than any skill, or resource or other advantage in this world, your desire will determine how far you go. So when the going gets rough, let your desire get even stronger.

If the goal does not seem worth the effort, then make the goal worth more. Keep reaching higher, until where you're going far outweighs what you must go through to get there.

When you have a reason to make it happen, you'll find a way to make it happen. When the goal is meaningful enough, you'll find a way to reach it no matter what.

Set your sights higher and you'll find you're able not only to look beyond the obstacles, but to get beyond them too.

-Ralph Marston
Reaching Higher

Family Issues



Regal Family Helpline

On February 20, CACL proudly launched the Community Living/Regal Family Helpline. The toll free 1-800 number is available for families across Canada who are looking for information, resources, connections and networks in their efforts to support their family member with an intellectual disability.

CACL established this line in response to the need families have expressed for more and better information and support and for connections to other families. Family members who call 1-800-856-2207 will receive a personal response that will include names and contact information for Associations in their area and for family groups and other families; resource material and information; and answers to commonly asked questions about disability.

"Our organization has heard directly from families that they have a lot of unanswered questions and often feel isolated in their day to day lives," says Cheryl Gulliver, President of CACL. "The Family Helpline is one way CACL can answer some of these questions and put families in touch with other families, networks and associations to help reduce their isolation?"

National Agenda to Support Families

"A National Agenda to Support Families: A Proposal to strike a new balance for families who have a member with a disability" was prepared by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL). It draws on consultations and research with people with disabilities and their families that CACL has conducted over the past few years to identify elements of an inclusive family policy for Canada as well as ideas for reform presented by The Roeher Institute in *Striking a New Balance* (2001).

The proposal highlights the importance of recognizing that families are asking that the responsibility for ensuring that children and adults with disabilities live valuable and contributing lives in our Canadian society be seen as a responsibility shared by family, community and government, rather than their sole responsibility.

Key elements of A National Policy Agenda to Support Families include: changing income systems; changing how communities work; enhancing disability supports; and reforming workplaces and labour markets. To enable coordinated change across governmental jurisdictions, a National Agenda is required and would include at least five primary policy objectives:

- Federal-Provincial/Territorial cooperation for a national agenda that includes increased federal investment.
- Enhanced family economic security including financial compensation to unpaid caregivers, paid employment leave and workplace accommodation for family caregivers and disability allowances.
- Provision of personal supports, such as access to needed personal supports, and respite care options and resources.
- Enhanced capacity of community supports/services including access to generic community supports, resourcing family-to family support, grants to disability sector NGO's and a community transitions fund.
- Transparent public accountability and outcomes reporting.

Implementing this Agenda will require the involvement and endorsement of all levels of government along with the continued support of families. The Agenda acknowledges the necessity for strong federal leadership, an increased financial investment in families, and for support and co-operation of provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Some of the policy options for change at the Federal level would include: reforms to the tax system (Disability Tax Credit, Child Tax Benefit Supplement, Medical Expense Tax Credit, development of a Caregiver Allowance), reform of EI legislation, enhancements to Canada Pension Plan benefits, and development of a National Home Care Program.

Examples of Provincial/Territorial policy changes would include: reforms to existing Social Assistance legislation, creation of a process to establish and review priorities for spending new funding, reforms to Labour Codes, revision/expansion of existing disability- related supports and services, and development of individualized/ direct funding arrangements.

For a copy of the brochure outlining the National Agenda, contact Dale Kendel at 786-1607.

Marathon Projects



In 2001-2002 Manitoba Marathon supported the following projects:

- ACL Beausejour - \$ 5,000 – Older Adults Project
- ACL Steinbach - \$ 10,000 – Set up costs of a new residence
- Riverdale Place Homes - \$5,000 - establishment of a one-person apartment in Arborg
- Touchwood Park - \$10,000 - Start up costs for a barrier free residence
- ACL Selkirk - \$2,500 - Furnishings for SIL Project for 3 ladies
- ACL Portage - \$3,000 - To support Lynn's move from MDC
- ACL Winnipeg - \$5,000 - Development of the Respite proposal as a two year demonstration project
- Columbian Apartment - \$6,000 - To assist with the purchase of furnishings for Tammy Golding's new home
- Columbian Apartment - \$4,800 - Hoyer lift for Chris Austen
- Touchwood Park - \$5,000 - To assist the development of new home and arrangements for four people
- El'dad Ranch - \$10,000 - To support the building of a new home
- ACL Steinbach - \$1,500 - Short term rent subsidy for Mary
- ACL Virden - \$5,000 - To provide residential and day services to a young man leaving the school system
- Grandview Residential - \$5,000 - Furnishings for new senior gathering place
- Pulford - Planning to open a new home - \$5,000
- ACL Selkirk - \$2,500 - Supplies for summer program for children with developmental disabilities
- ACL Swan River - \$5,000 - To complete the development of their Youth Residential Services,
- Portage - \$4,600 - Francis Anton, Phyllis Murdock to leave MDC
- Family Visions Brandon - \$900 - For Terry Campbell to leave MDC and a new bedroom suite
- Parkland Regional Linc - \$4,000 to develop a 3 person home. 1 person from MDC

Mission, Vision, and the Board of Directors



Mission

"The Association for Community Living – Manitoba is a Provincial, not-for-profit organization dedicated, through the mutual support and cooperation of Local Associations, to the building of dignified lifestyles and the full inclusion in the community of persons who live with a mental handicap."



Vision

The programs and policies of ACL are consistent with and guided by specific values. We believe:

- Each individual is capable of making decisions affecting him or herself, unless otherwise demonstrated
- Children nurtured within the family enjoy the benefits of family life
- Children should go with their friends to the neighbourhood schools where they further their growth and development together, with appropriate supports
- A person can aspire to have expectations of worthwhile career options, real work for real pay and fair recognition of accomplishment
- In adulthood, a person should have access to decent and appropriate homes which they are able to call their own
- A person should be able to someday retire to enjoy the lifestyle and activities of his or her own choosing.



Board of Directors

The following people formed the Board of Directors for 2001-2002.

- * Rose Flaig - president Matlock
- * Ken Reimer – past president Steinbach
- * Reg Malanchuk - treasurer Winnipeg
- * Val Surbey – 1st vice president Winnipeg
- * Donna Smith – 2nd vice president Brandon
- * Donna Platt - secretary West St. Paul
- Marge Cashman Virden
- Deanne Chartrand Swan River
- Jim Croy Petersfield
- Cindy Fast Winnipeg
- Betty Hopkins Winnipeg
- Terrilynn Johnson Winnipeg

Nelson Leaske Pelican Rapids
Joyce Manwaring Winnipeg
Marlene Naworynski Winnipeg
Sterling Parker Portage la Prairie
Anne Marie Ringrose Flin Flon
Marion Robinsong Brandon
Pauline Roy Otterburne
Elena Stangherlin Winnipeg
Trevor Walker Winnipeg

Spring Chairity Events

SPRING
CHAIRITY
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Have you ever had an old chair hanging around in your basement or garage? Have you ever put one in the back lane in hopes that someone might wander by and just take it? Imagine if that old chair could be translated into dollars that could be used to assist people live better lives.

THAT's Spring Chairity!

ACL-Manitoba's first Spring Chairity 2002 was held in April and what a success! All kinds of old chairs were collected from people just like you (or maybe even you!) Thirty-five local artists and designers were recruited to refurbish, redesign and basically "have fun and do anything that your heart desires" to bring the chair back to life. The majority of designers were amateurs, kids, businesses and other individuals who aspired to create and generously provided the end product to the Association.

The 2002 Spring Chairity Collection was outstanding with over 220 people gathered at the Royal Crown Conference Centre at Fort Garry Place in April to participate in the auctioning of the Collection. Local auctioneer Andy Kaye maneuvered his way through the crowd, balancing his skills and talents to ensure that ACL-Manitoba received as much as possible for each precious entry. Thanks to Andy, Don Kirton and CJOB, the Winnipeg Free Press, Fred Brick and Brick's Fine Furniture, and to all the designers and many other individuals and businesses who gave of their time and resources to ensure this event was a success.

Spring Chairity 2003 will be held on Friday, March 21 (the first day of spring!) at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

The planning committee has begun gathering it's 2003 Collection - recruiting both designers and old chairs. If you are interested in participating in ANY way-donating a chair, designing a chair, sitting on the planning committee, or any other activity-please contact Marsha Dozar at 786-1607.

Staff and Consultants



Dale Kendel Executive Director
Tara Hofsted Assistant Director
Pat Golding Brandon Office
Cheryl Duffy Office Manager
Marsha Dozar Justice, VPA, Chairity
Debra Mayer Early Childhood Inclusion
Nerina Robson Gentle Teaching, Choices,
Tools for Change, PATH,
Creative Facilitation
Debbie Taillefer Sexuality Training
Del Sexsmith Media
Bonnie Ferguson-Baird Opportunity Fund
Laureen Spitzke Sexuality Coordination
Paula Kierstead Bioethics
Graham Wyllie FAS
Beth McKechnie Reporter/Writer