

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inclusive Education Summit being held in Winnipeg Community Living Manitoba in Partnership with Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children Announces

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(Winnipeg) In celebration of the many achievements made as Manitobans work towards a more inclusive educational experience for all children, and as a kick-off to Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children's annual conference and 50th Anniversary, Community Living Manitoba and Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children are pleased to announce the February 20, 2008 Provincial Summit on Inclusive Education.

This summit, being held at Canad Inns Polo Park, is a follow-up to the 2004 Summit on Inclusive Education which built the momentum towards the November 2005 announcement of an amendment to the Public Education Act. This amendment, The Appropriate Education Act, ensures that all children, regardless of their exceptionalities or special needs can have a meaningful and appropriate education within Manitoba's public schools. "Our focus will be on what inclusive education means to all the diverse stakeholders in our public education system, with presentations from students, teachers, parents, school administrators, school division personnel and representatives from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth," comments Anne Kresta, Education Initiatives Co-ordinator for Community Living Manitoba. "While there still remain many challenges in implementing the Appropriate Education Act, we have much to be proud of."

Bendina Miller, Canadian Association for Community Living President and Mary Ruth Coleman, International President of the Council for Exceptional Children will be delivering keynote addresses focussing on embracing diversity in our school communities. Additionally, ten (10) concurrent sessions will be held utilizing the expertise and talents of Manitoba schools, teachers, parents and individuals living with a disability. The Inclusive Education Summit is based on the belief that schools and communities should educate all children. Schools and communities should promote teaching children of all ages and abilities to work together while making a contribution to the world around them.

For more information or to register for the Inclusive Education Summit, please visit the websites for Community Living-Manitoba (www.aclmb.ca) or Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children (www.manitobacec.ca) or call Anne Kresta at 487-2808.