

PACCA

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE

Annual Report 2002-2003

The Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (PACCA) is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency, community and cross-governmental body organized to meet regularly to consider issues related to all forms of child abuse. PACCA makes recommendations to the Director of the Child Protection Branch and as appropriate to other ministries to improve the well-being of children and their families.

Purpose

The general purpose of PACCA is to co-ordinate efforts to eliminate the abuse of children. PACCA was established in 1972 pursuant to a joint commitment of the departments of Health, Education and Youth, Justice, and Family Services and Housing to seek, explore, recommend and advocate ways of ensuring effective and efficient interdepartmental and interdisciplinary action in Manitoba in regard to service delivery, professional development, public education, treatment, prevention and research for children who may be victims or at risk of being victims of all forms of child abuse. The general activities of PACCA are as follows:

1. To advise and assist the Province of Manitoba generally and specifically all key departments and disciplines in facilitating and co-ordinating all joint interdepartmental and interdisciplinary efforts such as responding to and/or assisting with the development of legislation, policies, guidelines, protocols, standard setting, program planning, implementation and review, wherever possible and appropriate.
2. To promote research and education into child abuse and protection.
3. To facilitate interdepartmental and community cooperation and education in child protection.

Membership

Membership on PACCA is by appointment under the authority of the four departments and related agencies and institutions as follows:

Department of Health	Winnipeg Police Services
Department of Education and Youth	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Department of Justice	Office of the Children's Advocate
Department of Family Services and Housing	Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba	Child Protection Centre
Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba	Aboriginal Agencies
Office of the Provincial Chief Medical Examiner	Child Day Care

Winnipeg Child and Family Services

Activities

Child Abuse Protocols and Guidelines for Professionals

Due to the commitment in Manitoba to a multi-disciplinary approach to the prevention, identification, management and treatment of children in need of protection, including abuse, in 1988 PACCA established a sub-committee for the development and distribution of child abuse protocols and guidelines for professionals. These protocols have recently been revised to reflect the Revised Manitoba Guidelines on Identifying and Reporting a Child in Need of Protection (including abuse) and recent developments and knowledge in the field. The professions of Medicine, Nursing, Early Childhood Educators, Social Workers and Teachers have been jointly prepared in consultation with the Departments of Family Services and Housing, Health, Justice, and Education and Youth through PACCA and have been endorsed by the respective professional bodies.

Public Education and Awareness

On June 18, 2002, PACCA presented a public seminar entitled, Reporting Child Abuse: Changes to the Manitoba Guidelines. The focus of the seminar was to review the purpose, legal aspects, changes and implications of the Manitoba Guidelines on Identifying and Reporting a Child in Need of Protection (including abuse). The speakers were Ms. Janet Sigurdson, Crown Counsel from the Family Law Branch of Manitoba Department of Justice and Mr. Dennis Schellenberg, Executive Director of Manitoba Child and Family Services. The presentation was well attended and participants indicated their interest in attending future presentations by PACCA on related topics.

Child Abuse Committees Orientation and Education Sessions and Manual

In 1999, PACCA initiated the development of a training program for Child Abuse Coordinators and their committees. This project was funded by Healthy Child Initiative of the Manitoba Department of Family Services and Housing. Three pilot sessions have been held. The program is available for use in the orientation and basic training for new child abuse committee coordinators committee members. It may also be used as a refresher program for more experienced members of child abuse committees or in a training environment to develop networks among participants from various agencies and communities.

Infant Death due to Caregiver Rollover Committee

This committee was formed in 2001 to review and address the issue of increasing numbers of infant deaths due to caregiver rollover related to co-sleeping. It has been determined by the committee that there is a need for research into and public education regarding this issue. To this end, research funding will be sought for the study of incidence levels and public awareness of this issue in Manitoba. Ultimately, the committee will seek to develop educational materials for the public regarding this issue for the purposes of prevention.

Website Development

The development of a PACCA website is near completion. The website, which will be part of the Government of Manitoba website will provide information regarding PACCA such as its purpose and goals, reports, public education activities, and links to useful sites on child abuse and its prevention. In addition, the professional protocols will be available for downloading and circulation.

Ian Logan Memorial Award

The Ian Logan Memorial Award is presented annually to deserving individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, time and effort to the cause of addressing the issue of child abuse and keeping our children safe. The award was established in 1989 in memory of Sgt. Ian Logan a respected police officer and advocate for children.

The 2002 Ian Logan Memorial Award had two very deserving recipients: Dr. Jim Reid and Ms. Roz Prober. They were honoured at a special reception and presentation on November 25, 2002. In addition, the other nominees namely: Detective Sergeant Robert Melnyk, Ms. Burma Bushie and Ms Lindor Reynolds were also recognized for their accomplishments and contributions.

Past recipients of this award are:

Sgt. Ian Logan (posthumously) 1989

Dr. Kenneth N. McRae 1990

Ms. Leslie Galloway 1994

Sgt. Robin Parker 1994

Dr. Charles Ferguson 1996

Ms. Rosemary Somers 1996

Ms. Cynthia Willette 1997

Ms. Barb Hodge 1998

Mr. John P. Chudzik 1999

Ms. Norma Boule 2000

Ms. Brenda Ellerby 2001

Child Abuse Registry Committee

This committee was formed in 2000 to examine and review issues with the implementation of the amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* related to the Child Abuse Registry. The committee received feedback and information from abuse coordinators of all Child and Family Services Agencies and from child abuse committee members across the province. The committee reviewed all of the information gathered and developed recommendations related to policies, training or procedures. Currently the committee is working on drafting recommendations for submission to the Director related to possible legislative amendments.