

IN THE SPIRIT OF NELLIE MCCLUNG

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January 28, 2016, was an auspicious evening for Manitoba Women's Institute. At a gala event at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, MWI, along with 9 individual women, received a *Nellie Award*, "presented in the spirit of Nellie McClung" by the Nellie McClung Foundation in partnership with Winnipeg Free Press.

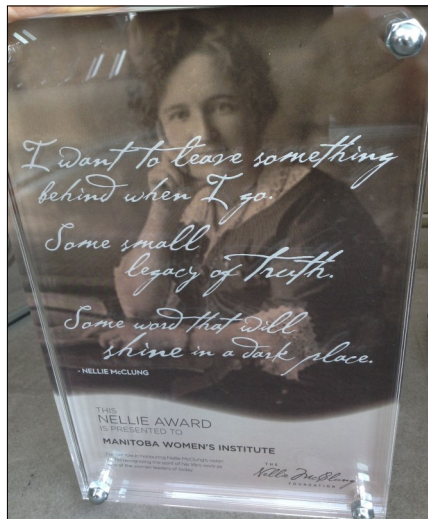
MWI was represented at this event by President Donna Young and President-elect Ann Mandziuk. It was a very impressive evening. The banquet room contained 100 tables, symbolizing 100 years since women were given the vote. As each recipient was announced, a biography of her work was read. Each winner received a glass etching (shown above).

Sixty-six nominations had been received by the Winnipeg Free Press. A selection committee of Manitoba women whittled the list down to 10 winners. They are:

- Dr. Jessie Lang
- Beatrice Watson
- Wilma Derksen
- Connie Magnusson Schimnowski
- Susan Hart-Kulbaba
- Dr. Alexandria Wilson
- Shirley Kalyniuk
- Dr. Rayleen De Luca
- Sherri Walsh
- Manitoba Women's Institute

In addition, two *Nellie Legacy Award* recipients were named: Gail Asper and the Honourable Janice Filmon.

The Centennial Gala itself was hosted by the Nellie McClung Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The event was held on the very day — 100 years later — when Manitoba women became the first in Canada to be awarded the right to vote.



Special guest speaker was the Honourable Janice Filmon, the 25th and current Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. The program was hosted by Cheryl Hickey from *ET Canada*.

The following is a portion of the nomination submission:

Nellie McClung was "a prairie woman who used her talents, determination, and energy to bring about change to society." Manitoba Women's Institute is an organization of prairie women that has used the same attributes for the

same purpose – to change society. MWI has been working for over 100 years for the betterment of women and their families. The WI gave women the opportunity to educate themselves and to work for common goals, as well as to break out of their social isolation. Most of the women back in 1910 may have been uneducated, but they still had a thirst for learning. They were the backbones of their families, and they saw the great need for women to work with other women to improve the quality of life for everyone. The organization has deep roots in the fabric of many rural communities.

DCK

Attention!

This edition of *The News* contains information on business and activities of the **2016 AGM** on May 6-7. Of special importance are the 10 resolutions. Please bring this newsletter with you to the convention.



MWI President Donna Young and members of the Manitoba Living Historical Society. Photo by A. Mandziuk

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FWIC 2018 Convention update

The Challenge of Change is the theme we have been given by the FWIC Board around which to build the 2018 Convention. MWI will be hosting this national event from July 8 – 14, 2018, with board meetings at the front end and conference sessions from Wednesday to Saturday. Planning is underway with the venue of the Fort Garry Hotel being secured and a tourism grant from Tourism Winnipeg negotiated. Co-chairs Lynne Hopley and Joan Clement attended the Convention in New Brunswick to learn from what happened there and to get ideas for the upcoming event. We are presently seeking members who might be interested in helping to plan the Convention or to work or help out with a variety of committees. If you have an interest in helping out in any way, please contact Lynne or Joan. If you have suggestions of speakers you have heard or heard about that you think would be a draw for those considering attending, we would be interested in hearing that information as well.

One task that we need to accomplish is to design and create a pin and logo for the event. If you have a design bent, or if you can get your creative juices flowing around the theme *The Challenge of Change 2018* and the event being held in Manitoba, we would love for you to share your ideas.

While 2018 seems a long way off, we know that there is much work to do, and time seems to go by quickly these days; however, working together to accomplish a task helps us to have a stronger sense of purpose. We look forward to hearing from you.

Joan Clement

SHE Day

Maren Mueller and Arenda Vanderdeen attended SHE Day at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg on January 15, 2016. They along with 800 other women spent the day listening to ten speakers talk about business and leadership — especially for women. The speakers offered encouragement and life experiences. Big screens helped to make the speakers visible. According to Arenda, "it was very great to see so many women

together who received a pep talk to start their own business or to climb the ladder of leadership." All ages were there, including young women who could learn how to live a career life and family life in harmony.

The tickets were sold out in four days. Arenda found the \$50 to be well spent!

Celebrating female school trustees

On behalf of Manitoba Women's Institute, Gisela Nolting attended a reception at the Legislative Building on January 12, 2016, to celebrate the achievements of five women who became the first members of their communities to serve as school trustees in Manitoba.

Marie-Antoinette Lamoureux Le-maire was the first elected Franco-Manitoban woman to serve as a trustee. Rose Cherniak Alcin became the first Jewish woman to serve as a trustee in Manitoba and to hold public office in Canada. Mary Dyma was the first Ukrainian woman to serve as a trustee in Manitoba. Inez Stevenson was the first Afro-Caribbean woman to serve as a trustee in Manitoba and the first black woman to hold office in this province. These four are deceased.

Linda Ballantyne was the first woman of First Nations ancestry to serve as school board chairperson in Manitoba. A *Star Blanket* was presented to her on behalf of the Frontier School Board, and an *Honour Song* was performed by the *Teenage Bears Drum Group* of Maples Collegiate.

Women were able to serve as school trustees from 1880, more than two decades before the legal right to vote was first granted to select women in Manitoba in 1916. Three women trustees went on to serve as Manitoba Minister of Education: Maureen Hemphill 1981-1986; Linda McIntosh 1995-1999; and Nancy Allan 2009-2013.

Premier Selinger signed a proclamation commemorating 2016 as the *Year of Women Trustees*.

Gisela Nolting

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



By the time you read my article, I am hoping that all our members will have heard about Manitoba Women's Institute winning a Nellie Award!! This is absolutely wonderful!! If there is any organization that deserves this honour, it is MWI. Being presented with the Nellie this year is very meaningful seeing as this is the hundredth anniversary of women getting the vote in Manitoba and how more empowered can you get than being able to vote?

Nellie McClung believed in Women's Institute. Being an amazing woman, she was an author and a lecturer fighting for women's suffrage and prohibition in her time. She became the Honorary President of the Edmonton Women's Institute. As one of the "Famous Five", she campaigned to have women designated "Persons" in the British North America Act. Nellie McClung was one of the orig-

inal pioneer women who made this country great.

There are many people we would like to thank for this honour. The opportunity was brought to our attention by Valerie Watt. Thank you, Valerie, for your vigilance in monitoring the media world. Next would be the Manitoba Association of Home Economists (MAHE) for nominating us. MAHE needed someone to write an appropriate 500-word nomination. Of course the person to get for that would be the Editor of our *Institute News*. Thank you, Dianne, for your expertise. We then needed three other organizations to write and submit 100-word documentations for the nomination. I would like to thank the Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies, 4-H Council, and Ag in the Classroom (Manitoba) for supporting our nomination. And finally, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the Winnipeg Free Press for choosing MWI as an award recipient.

From the time of its conception 106 years ago until now, the Institute has changed and will continue to change in many ways; however, the organization has never wavered from its mandate to empower women in rural areas so that they can help their families and communities. This is what Manitoba Women's Institute is all about and I am so **proud** and **honoured** that the Winnipeg Free Press has recognized this.

Donna Young

MWI Convention 2016

Here is some exciting news! **Her Honour Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba**, will be the keynote speaker at the Convention banquet! We have some other exciting things happening as well. You will find it all on page 5.

Accommodation: We have listed only the Elkhorn Resort in the conference information on pages 5/6. The Resort has given us a very good rate, and it is always pleasing to stay in the venue where the meetings are taking place. There are, of course, other options available in the Clear Lake/Onanole area. You might contact the following :

1. Smokey Hollow Resort at 1-204-848-2600 or 1-800-365-5695
2. Meadow Ridge B&B at 204-848-3333
3. The Honeycomb at 204-848-2345
4. Lake House and Chalet at 204-848-7366 or staylakehouse.ca. This business offers a reduced rate for convention goers, but it must be booked by April 28.

Jewelry and Scarf Swap: This activity is fun and free! Think about the scarf you never wear but is too nice to get rid of. Or the necklace you got from your niece, which is very pretty but not your style. These items can now have a new purpose. Bring at list one scarf or jewelry piece to the AGM at Clear Lake. All these beautiful accessories will form a scarf and jewelry table. Anyone who brings an item to the table will get a ticket and during the meeting will get an opportunity to pick up an accessory for free. The leftovers will be donated to Samaritan House in Brandon.

People's Choice Craft Competition: MWI members are invited to bring along a craft item to be part of a People's Choice competition. Unfortunately, we will not have room for large quilts. Upon registration, each delegate will receive three tickets to use for voting. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded to the items receiving the most points. Items must be received on Friday afternoon. If you are not attending until Saturday and wish to display an item, please send it along with someone on Friday. For more information, contact Gail Sawchuk at 204-966-3895.

Home and Country Auction: All locals are asked to supply an item or basket for the auction (suggested \$30 cost). Thanks for your support of this fundraiser.



President-elect Ann Manziuk (l) and President Donna Young have some fun at the Centennial Gala Celebrating 100 Years of Manitoba Women's Right to Vote. Photo by A. Mandziuk

Equality in the Senate

There has been much talk in the last decade about the validity, credibility, and effectiveness of the Senate; nevertheless, the Senate is part of the government of this country and must continue to function. One way to make it better would be to make it gender equal.

As of the end of December 2015, there were 83 sitting Senators, 30 of whom are women (36 percent). There are 33 vacancies and another four retirements scheduled for 2016. Senate equality would be achieved if the 22 vacancies were filled by women.

Two women — Donna Dasko and Ceta Ramkhalawansingh — have started a letter-writing campaign urging Prime Minister Trudeau to extend to the Senate the same gender equality that he brought to his Cabinet. Many high profile Canadian women have signed this letter, as well as organizations such as the YWCA and Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

In December 2015, the federal government announced that Senate appointees will now be assessed by Advisory Boards. The assessment will look at age, residency, independence, non-partisanship, and other aspects, but the new process does not include a pledge for gender equality.

One might wonder where the Advisory Board will get the names to assess? How will nominations be invited? In fact, on February 4, the MWI office received a number of attachments from Huguette Labelle, Chairperson of the Independent Advisory Board of Senate Appointments. The information included the mandate of the Advisory Board, an explanation of the Senate appointment process, an explanation of the documentation necessary to make a nomination, and the nomination form itself. One might assume that a number of agencies and organizations received the very same information. The bad news? The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2016 — just 11 days after the information was sent out.

It will be interesting to see how the Senate nominations unfold. Will nominations be received from non-partisan sources? Will the nominations include women? And after the vacancies are filled, will we have gender equality in the Senate?

DCK

MWI Nominations 2016

Director-at-Large: Heather Klassen

Heather Klassen grew up in Minnedosa and moved to Winnipeg in 2001 for university. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree (double major in Criminology and Psychology). She also completed the Project Management Certificate program at Red River College. Heather has held a variety of jobs over the years, working in industries such as aviation, security, and social services. She moved to Dauphin in 2011 to take a job with the RCMP, but soon returned to Winnipeg to run her own business which focuses on teaching individuals and small business owners (especially women) how to use project management to achieve their goals.

Heather has been a member of MWI for the past five years and has been part of the Promotions and Recruitment committee since 2014. Heather writes, "As one of the youngest members of MWI, I bring new ideas and a fresh approach to various aspects of the organization. I am interested in filling the position of Director-at-Large and look forward to becoming more actively involved in MWI."

President-elect: Denise Joss

Denise Joss is a member of Springfield WI and serves as Eastern Region representative on the provincial board. After living in Dugald for 30 years, Denise and her husband, Russ retired to Lac du Bonnet. Before retirement, Denise worked as a special needs teacher in Transcona-Springfield and River East School Divisions. Denise believes that being an advocate for those not able to speak up has helped her work for the many important goals of MWI such as empowering strong women and their families.

During her time living in Dugald, Denise was part of the very first Regional Health Board for Northeast Health Authority. She served as President of the Kin Place Board that built the seniors' apartments and for 10 years, she served as the Chairman of the fund-raising committee for the new Kin Place Personal Care Home and Primary Health Care Centre built in Oakbank. She enjoys performing with the church choir, Toastmasters, bowling, and scrap-booking. She writes, "My goals are to help MWI broaden its membership appeal and to be the "best Baba ever!"

Fork River WI

The accompanying photo pictures the lovely ladies from Fork River WI when they



gathered for their Christmas Get Together in December 2015. (l-r) Standing: Marsha Chanin, Cheryl Sime, Jean Fedoriw, Lesley Cochrane, Marilyn Kippen. Seated: Diane Heppner, Sarah Pasternak, Marie Kousins, Wilma Rowe, Diane Hrychuk. Missing: Chris Devos, Lorna Devos, Emily Pylypchuk. Photo by D. Heppner.

Caring, Sharing, and Daring

Manitoba Women's Institute 2016 Provincial Convention

May 6-7, 2016

Elkhorn Resort Spa and Conference Centre, Clear Lake, Manitoba

Phone 204-848-2802 or 1-866-355-4676 www.elkhornresort.mb.ca

For over 100 years, Manitoba Women's Institute has worked for the betterment of women and their families. And there is still much work to do!! Come and join us for the MWI annual meeting and conference. The company will be great, and the speakers will inspire.

Friday, May 6

10-11:30 am Optional spa

Lunch on your own

12 noon	Registration opens
1:00 pm	Table Talk (mixer) Chairperson: Donna Young Welcome <i>O Canada</i> Housekeeping
1:30 pm	Speaker: Dave McGregor CEO, <i>Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba</i>
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Speaker: Deva-Marie Beck <i>Nightingale Initiative for Global Health</i>
3:15 pm	Speaker: Jennifer Poulain , <i>Investment Fundamentals for Women</i>
4:00 pm	Free time Board meeting
5:30 pm	Happy hour

6:30 pm	Banquet Hostess: Donna Young Introductions Toast to the Queen Grace Greetings
7:30 pm	Keynote speaker: The Honourable Janice Filmon, C.M., O.M.
8:30 pm	Entertainment: Doreen Stapleton

10:30	Resolution session #1
11:15	FWIC report: Linda Hoy MAFRD report: Pat Orsak 3rd call for nominations Nominating committee report Introduction of nominees Housekeeping Grace
12:00-1:00	Lunch and social time Election (if required) Sale of raffle tickets closed
1:00 pm	<i>Celebration of Life</i> AGM continued Chairperson: Ann Mandziuk Resolution session #2 Break
2:45	Jewelry & Scarf Swap
3:00	Resolution session #3 (if necessary) Election report Competition winners The Spirit of Nellie McClung New business Open mike (if time allows) Question Box Attendance report Invitation to 2017 Courtesies Installation of Board Adjournment <i>God Save the Queen</i>
4:15	<i>Home and Country Raffle</i> winners posted Post convention board meeting

Saturday, May 7

Breakfast on your own

8:30-9:30 am	Registration Verification of voting cards
9:30 am	Welcome: Enid Clark Annual General Meeting Chairperson: Donna Young Procession of the Board <i>Mary Stewart Collect</i> Housekeeping President's Remarks Acceptance of agenda Regional Presidents' highlights Roll call 1st call for nominations Minutes of the 2015 AGM MWI annual report Treasurer's annual report 2nd call for nominations
10:15	Break Jewelry and Scarf Swap

REGISTRATION FORM

Conference registration: Please make registration cheques payable to **MWI 2016 Convention**. No convention refunds will be provided after May 1 with the exception of illness, death, or bereavement. In the case of illness, a doctor's note is required. An administrative fee of \$50 shall be applied to all refunds.

Name: _____ **Box/Street:** _____

Town/City: _____ **Postal Code:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Registration forms and cheques made payable to **MWI 2016 Convention** should be sent to:

Janis Klassen, 2016 MWI Convention Registrar
Box 1541, Minnedosa, Manitoba R0J 1E0
klassenh@mts.net
(Phone: 204-867-3701)

If you require any further information, please call
Enid Clark (849-2071) or Dianne Kowalchuk (328-7690)
If you have special needs, special dietary requirements, etc.,
please include a note with your registration.

Receipts will be included in your conference package.
Accommodations and breakfasts are not included in the registration cost.

Be sure to fill out both sides of this form.

Speakers

Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

"Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba exists so that children are safe and nurtured in strong, loving families within a community of caring people." Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba (CFS Western) is a private non-profit community-based charitable agency led by a community-elected and community-represented Volunteer Board of Directors. Since 1899, CFS Western has been effectively serving the needs of Westman families and children. Besides providing mandated protection services, the Agency offers a variety of family strengthening programs and services. Dave McGregor, CEO of CFS Western, will speak about the role of CFS agencies and specifically about the work of CFS Western.

Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, RN

Deva-Marie Beck is a multi-media specialist, nursing educator, author, presenter and world-wide traveler — serving in all these roles as International Co-Director of the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH). NIGH is a major grass-roots-to-global movement of "daring, caring and sharing" of nurses and others around the world inspired by the outstanding legacy of Florence Nightingale. The Nightingale Initiative envisions and emulates what Nightingale might have accomplished if she had lived in the digital age and with international agencies such as the United Nations and World Health Organization. It challenges nurses everywhere to think and act both locally

and globally, to raise their voices about the contribution of nursing, and to become authentic advocates.

Jennifer Poulain

Jennifer Poulain, a resident of Winnipeg, currently works at BMO Global Asset Management as Regional Sales Manager. She has been in the financial industry for 24 years and enjoys working with women to help expand their knowledge of investing. Jennifer's attendance at the MWI convention is sponsored by Kirkup Agencies of Souris.

Linda Hoy

Linda Hoy began her term as President of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) at the conclusion of the Triennial Conference in New Brunswick in June 2015. Linda lives in Cookshire-Eaton, Quebec, and has been a WI member for well over 30 years. She served as Provincial President and then two terms as Executive Officer on the FWIC board. She works at Bishop University's Bookstore and she is an avid photographer.

Honourable Janice Filmon

Janice Filmon was installed as Manitoba's 25th Lieutenant Governor on June 19, 2015. Ms Filmon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba. She is the wife of former Premier Gary Filmon, mother of four, and grandmother to nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. She has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cancer Care Manitoba Foundation, Founding Chair of the Nellie

McClung Foundation, and Founding Co-Chair of Leadership Winnipeg. She has been honoured with the Guardian Angel Award by the Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Canon Law by St. John's College in 2007 and an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Manitoba in 2011. Janice Filmon was inducted into the Order of Manitoba in 2007 and the Order of Canada in 2013.

Accommodation

*Arrangements for accommodations must be made directly with the Elkhorn Resort Spa and Convention Centre in Clear Lake at 204-848-2802 or 1-866-355-4676. Advise the receptionist that you are with Manitoba Women's Institute and that there is a block of rooms set aside for this event. Code: Enid2016

*For single occupancy, the rate is **\$110** plus taxes; for double occupancy, the rate is **\$130** plus taxes.

*This block of rooms will be available until **April 1, 2016**.

*Chalets may also be available; the cost is quite reasonable if a group wishes to stay together.

*You may, of course, choose to stay at other accommodations in Clear Lake or Onanole. See page 3.

Breakfasts are not included with the room and are not part of the convention registration package. No food will be provided at the breaks.

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Conference (Friday, Saturday):

Includes 1½ days, Friday banquet, Saturday lunch, and 3 breaks

Before April 15

\$110

After April 15

\$130

Friday including half day, one break, banquet, and entertainment :

\$80

Friday Banquet only: Banquet and entertainment

\$50

Saturday including 2 breaks and lunch

\$70

Solstice Spa Time Friday 10:00-11:30 am

\$21

Total cheque _____

*Please check
your choice.*

Please make cheque payable to **MWI 2016 Convention**.

Arrangements for accommodation must be made directly with the Elkhorn Resort.

Be sure to fill in both sides of this form.

MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE RESOLUTIONS 2016

1. Resolution: Rural transportation and handi-transit service in Manitoba submitted by Individual Members of MWI

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute request that the Government of the Province of Manitoba support the expansion of handi-transit services in rural communities to allow them to become a more useable service for the entire community. This would be done by amending the Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program Eligibility Guidelines and the Vehicle Operation Regulations governed by the Motor Transport Board.

Background information:

The rural areas of Manitoba have seen drastic declines or complete loss of rural public transportation systems since the withdrawal of Greyhound Bus Line; further, the limited changes and incentives brought forward by the Motor Transport Board and the Province of Manitoba to stimulate the establishment of replacement services still leave numerous rural areas without rural public transportation.

The Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program (MDTP) was established to support locally-initiated transportation services for mobility disadvantaged persons, so that they may live more independently. Through this program, funding is provided to municipalities that sponsor and operate handi-transit services in their communities. The availability of transportation services in communities across rural Manitoba is very important. The Province reviews (on an ongoing basis) the Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program. An annual survey of MDTP operators is also conducted to identify ways to improve service. This has resulted in program enhancements, such as the introduction of Regional Incentive Grants.

The differences in transportation options available across rural Manitoba are significant. Some communities with handi-transit services have no other public transportation service. In these situations, the MDTP and Motor Transport Board Guidelines allow handi-transit operators to provide service to non-mobility disadvantaged clients, providing flexibility for these services to meet the transportation needs of their community. In order to offer service to other clients, handi-transit operators must ensure their vehicle is not required by mobility disadvantaged, and that no other licensed public vehicle is available in the community.

2. Resolution re: Manitoba's aging population submitted by Wheat City Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute strongly urge Manitoba Health to address the increasing numbers of senior citizens who will be requiring advanced levels of health care in the near future. This will include expedited access to secure home care, adequate long-term health facilities, medical diagnostic clinics, and professional geriatric medical staffing.

Background information:

As the baby boomers continue to age, the numbers of elderly people with health needs will become enormous. These numbers have been referred to as a "Silver Tsunami", and are expected to double in the next two decades. This need for care begins with support for personal independence with home care as long as possible and gradually continues until the care level becomes more complex requiring 24-hour nursing in a personal care home.

There are lengthy delays right now in terms of seniors being able to gain access to home care services. Increasing numbers of senior residents in Manitoba will cause even larger bottlenecks in the future. We would encourage the solving of this dilemma as a first priority. The use of security cameras in public buildings is now commonplace. It is a natural progression to have such security systems in private homes. It becomes especially important when numbers of home care workers are in and out of the residences on a daily basis. Honest people will welcome such security as reinforcement of their own good ethical standards.

The present trend to shift more health care (i.e. childbirth, surgery) to larger medical facilities has left many small rural hospitals under-utilized. If they were even partially adapted into personal care residences, it would make it possible for more seniors to remain in their own communities, close to family and friends. It has been shown that this social connection helps to slow cognitive decline and dementia onset, and is an important segment of healthy aging.

3. Resolution re: Mandatory vaccinations submitted by Rivers Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Government of Manito-

ba to introduce legislation that would make childhood vaccinations (as per the schedule approved by Manitoba Health) mandatory for children attending all schools in Manitoba.

Background information:

The immunization of children against disease is a monumental achievement for public health. According to *The Manitoba Immunization Study* completed by the University of Manitoba, "In the last 50 years, vaccination has essentially erased illnesses like diphtheria and polio. Others, like measles, mumps, rubella, and whooping cough have been dramatically reduced." There is a growing list of diseases that are now vaccine-preventable. Unfortunately, some parents opt out of the vaccine program.

Health officials say that 95 % of a community needs to have been vaccinated in order for that community to be fully protected. If this level is not achieved, "herd immunity" might break down, resulting in outbreaks of serious diseases that vaccines had virtually wiped out in this country. For example, in 2015, there were three outbreaks of measles in Canada including 138 cases in Quebec. These outbreaks are dangerous for children (and adults) who cannot be immunized because of underlying health issues. Babies who aren't old enough to get the shots are also at great risk. Canadians born before 1970 are assumed to have contracted measles and are likely immune, and most people who were vaccinated will be protected. This is not foolproof, however, because immunity can wane over time.

The Manitoba Immunization Monitoring System tracks immunization in the province. Data for 2012-13 indicates that the provincial average for the use of the mumps-measles-rubella (MMR) vaccine by age 7 was 75%. Some parents have decided that their children will not receive the MMR vaccine because of the fear that the vaccine causes autism. This is a fallacy. Childhood vaccinations do not cause autism. Some parents feel that overburdening their child's immune system with multiple vaccines is harmful. On the contrary, research has shown that young children are exposed to more antigens (substances that stimulate disease fighting antibodies) in a single day of living than through immunizations. Today's parents have likely never had any experience with the diseases that vaccines prevent, and they do not understand the risk posed by these diseases. According to the *Globe and Mail*, "as a result of

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complications, about one in five children who contract measles will be admitted to hospital and approximately one in 1000 will die." Measles is highly contagious. A carrier typically infects 12 to 18 others who are unvaccinated and 6 to 7 who are partially vaccinated. (By comparison, a person with the flu infects 1 to 3 others.)

New Brunswick and Ontario are the only provinces that require children to be vaccinated in order to attend school. In these provinces, children may be exempted for medical, philosophical, or religious reasons but this entails a doctor's form or another type of affidavit. In Manitoba, immunization is voluntary. The science is clear. Children who are fully vaccinated are the best defense to protect an entire community. If Ontario and New Brunswick can do this, Manitoba can do this also.

Sources:

An Ounce of Prevention: Manitobans and Immunization, University of Manitoba
CBC news reports, *Globe and Mail*, *Parents Magazine*

4. Resolution re: Ambulance costs submitted by Woodmore Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Health to review the cost of ambulance service with the aim of making the costs more affordable to all citizens and making the rates consistent across the province.

Background information:

Manitoba is home to the highest ambulance fees in the country. The Prairie Mountain Health Region has the highest flat-rate in Canada for its Assiniboine area, where the fee is \$530; in Winnipeg, the fee is not far behind at \$512. Some people don't call an ambulance when they need one because they are worried about paying the fee. By comparison, most Canadian provinces charge less than \$200 per trip, except when trips are unusually long or if the call is deemed not medically necessary. Ambulance fees range from \$45 in Ontario to more than \$500 in parts of Manitoba.

The City of Brandon Ambulance Rates (January 1—December 31, 2014)

Primary Service Area:

Emergency and Non Emergency Medical Response \$455.00

Additional charges as applicable:

Basic Life Support Fee \$100.00

Advanced Life Support Fee \$200.00

Out of Community Resident Surcharge

\$150.00

Out of Province Resident Surcharge

\$220.00

Fees differ between provinces and cities because they depend on the subsidies provided by the different provinces and municipalities. Some regions may charge a lower flat rate but then may add on other fees that push the patient's total bill much higher. Those extras include a fee per kilometre travelled, a non-residency fee if you live outside the local health region, or a fee for life support.

The funding model in Winnipeg requires patient revenue to cover half the cost of the emergency medical service while the regional health authority and the city pay 25 % each. The underlying intent is to create a user-pay approach to ambulance funding as opposed to a fully tax funded service. The ability to call an ambulance when you require an ambulance shouldn't really be based on your ability to pay.

Sources:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/no-free-ride-ambulance-bills-in-manitoba-highest-in-canada-1.2947262>

http://www.brandonrha.mb.ca/en/Health_Centre_Care/Ambulance_Charges.html

5. Resolution re: Educational funding for First Nations students submitted by Silverton Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute petition the federal government to raise the per capita funding for First Nations students to the same level as the funding offered to provincially funded students.

Background information:

Statistics show that, on the average, provincial governments spend \$9,200 per child under their jurisdiction, while the federal government spends \$7,200 per child for those under their jurisdiction (i.e. First Nations students).

This discrepancy leads to increased class sizes for First Nations students, and thus less one-on-one attention. If First Nations students attend High Schools that are off reserve, their Bands must pay for that education at the provincial level with federal funding. This fact could lead to the cutting of funds in other areas, such as health care.

Education is the key to helping people rise out of poverty. Equal opportunities should be made available to all Canadian students. We therefore urge MWI to consider this resolution under our vision of

strengthening all women, families, and communities.

Source: Park West School Division from the Manitoba Education Advanced Learning Statistics.

6. Resolution re: Farm safety training submitted by Silverton Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute urge Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development (MAFRD) to facilitate regular yearly farm safety training sessions, with emphasis on grain entrapment training.

Background information:

In 2015, four children and three adults were killed in Canada as a result of grain entrapment. Larger equipment and less experienced operators are often factors. Yearly training would be a proactive step rather than a reactive event that happens only after a tragedy occurs.

While the overall number of farm deaths by accident have decreased, the accidents for those who are very young or very old have increased. The type of work needed on the farm has changed, but family farms often need, by necessity, to employ those who are no longer young and those who are too young. The need for more safety training is imperative.

In 2005, the Criminal Code of Canada included a safety component (Section 217/219 – anybody with a reckless disregard for human life can be found criminally negligent in a criminal court of law.) Thus, if a farm accident happens that could have been prevented, the farmer could be charged. Farmers must look at their farms and identify risks and put into place practices to control these risks. Formal safety training is an essential part in helping in the risk identification.

7. Resolution re: Food security and affordability in the North submitted by Silverton Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute urge Health Canada, Manitoba Health, and Manitoba Family Services to develop and implement a policy to improve food security for northern and remote areas.

Background information:

Many community food assessments have been conducted. Some of the important information discovered includes

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the fact that people in remote areas, namely Northern Manitoba or the Territories, pay 60% more for nutritional food than those living in the south. Also, remote communities pay one third more than non-remote northern communities, while some remote communities have no access to food stores at all. Seventy-five percent of households in these areas are affected by food insecurity.

Comparisons between the remote community of Tadoule Lake, north of Thompson, Manitoba, and Russell, Manitoba, showed significant differences in the cost of all items. The remote areas pay three to five times more for shipping than businesses in the south do, contributing to the problem of cost and availability of healthy food.

The movement away from the practice of hunting due to the loss of some wildlife and wildlife habitat or changes in culture has forced people to rely more on food brought into communities – food that is less healthy and too expensive.

Difficult access to healthy and affordable food could be alleviated by subsidizing shipping rates, by increasing food availability, or by providing northern allowances or social assistance where needed. This could decrease the rates of obesity and diabetes, a continuing strain on families and on the health care system.

8. Resolution re: Guaranteed social services funding submitted by Silverton Women's Institute

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute petition the Provincial Minister Responsible for Family Services to ensure that social assistance allowances keep up with the rate of inflation and rising costs of food and housing.

Background information:

People relying on social assistance must be able to budget their allocated dollars to adequately support their families. Food choices are often compromised when social assistance does not keep up with the actual cost of food. The increased use of food banks and the rising number of children in poverty bears witness to this point. According to the Poverty Trends Scorecard, as put out by the Citizens for Public Justice, in 2010 and again in 2012, the National Poverty Rate stands at 9%, whereas the rate for Manitoba is 9.2%, with only Quebec and British Columbia scoring higher. By comparison, Saskatchewan's rate is 6.4%.

9. Resolution re: Early Childhood Caries submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Be it resolved that Manitoba Women's Institute urge Manitoba Health to tackle the problem of Early Childhood Caries (ECC) by 1) identifying the communities that have a high incidence of the disease and 2) introducing into those communities a program to combat malnutrition, a contributing factor to ECC.

Background Information:

Early Childhood Caries (ECC) is a disease that results in the decay of a child's primary teeth. ("Caries" is the scientific name for "cavities".) According to Dr. Olva Odum, Senior Scholar in Preventative Dental Science at the University of Manitoba's College of Dentistry, in ECC situations, "dental decay will begin in the upper front teeth where the fluids wash over the surface. As this decay progresses the teeth will be destroyed and abscesses can form around the tips of the remaining roots." ECC was known as Baby Bottle Tooth Decay, but the Canadian Dental Association has acknowledged that inappropriate bottle feeding is not the main, or the only, cause of the disease. Bacteria, which thrives and multiplies in a constant supply of sugar, is able to turn the sugar into acids that destroy the teeth. If the destruction gets into the pulp of the tooth where the blood supply sits, the bacteria can cause an infection which, in some cases, can progress up the face and even into the brain. The consequences of the disease can be severe. The Canadian Institute for Health Information writes that "quality of life can be seriously impaired" by ECC. In 2013, 19,000 children in Canada younger than the age of 6 underwent surgery to repair or remove their diseased baby teeth. These surgeries were almost always carried out under general anesthetic, which has risks of its own (as well as a huge financial cost). The ECC children were found to have "significant greater odds for iron deficiency (and) anaemia" as well as other deficiencies. Studies suggest that ECC children have been severely malnourished during a crucial time of development. Studies also show that ECC children continue to have difficulties after surgery; for example, the extraction of the upper incisors means that the child would not be able to eat firmer foods such as fresh fruit and thus poor diet habits may be established. Many become obese. The early loss of teeth could lead to the premature eruption of permanent teeth which may emerge before the jaw bone has fully formed. This could lead to the need for

orthodontic treatment, which not all children would have access to. Also, front teeth are necessary for the speaking of certain sounds,

Dr. Odum is very concerned about the prevalence of ECC. She has made it quite clear in her presentations that this can no longer be considered just a dental problem. Proper feeding practices are a public health issue that must be dealt with by nursing staff and community leaders. Dentists have been easing the pain of these little people, but "if teeth can be dissolved before age 2, we have to wonder what's happening or not happening in the homes."

Resources:

Only the Tip of the Iceberg? By Dr. Olva Odum, CDA Essentials

Treatment of Preventable Dental Cavities in Preschoolers, Canadian Institute for Health Information

Early Childhood Caries: Is This a Simple Dental Problem? Discussion paper by Dr. Olva Odum
Nutrition and Brain Development in Early Life, Alive and Thrive Foundation

10. Resolution: Reiteration of a resolution passed in 2014 re: payment for recycled beverage containers. Submitted by the Resolutions Committee (submitted in 2014 by Fisher Branch WI)

Be it resolved that the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) of Manitoba and Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) be obligated to provide mandatory payment for beverage containers of all sizes, especially PET and aluminum containers to ensure the public buys in as stakeholders in insuring adherence to the recycling of beverage containers in Manitoba.

Background information:

After this resolution was accepted in 2014, a letter was sent to the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. A reply on his behalf defended the effectiveness of the current recycling system. The letter said that although the recovery of beverage containers must improve, there was no plan to institute a refund program. The CBCRA is obligated by an Act of the Manitoba Legislature to recover 75 percent of all beverage containers sold in Manitoba. According to the CBCRA website, the recovery rate was 42 percent in 2010 and 64 percent in 2014. This is still below the 75 percent target. Manitoba is one of the few provinces that does not have a deposit return system. Those provinces with such a system can boast over an 80 percent recovery rate. In Manitoba, beverage producers

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have been given the option of setting up a deposit-refund system or of paying a 2 percent container levy. All except beer producers have chosen to pay the levy. MWI would like the government to change this. We believe that more beverage containers would be diverted from the landfill if a financial incentive were in place. MWI commends the CBCRA *Recycle Everywhere* program that has provided recycling bins in public places. However, a deposit-refund system would make the recycling program even more successful.

Source: Bottle Bill Resource Guide bottlebill.org

Upcoming Canadian census

MWI has received a letter from Statistics Canada. The next census will take place in May 2016. MWI members are asked to:

- Be aware that 35,000 people across the country will be hired to work on this census. This could be you or someone you know.
- Encourage people to complete the census. Census information is important for all communities and is vital for planning services. Everyone needs to take part.

Regional Conventions

Northwest

April 2
Hosted by Silverton WI

Southwest B

April 7

Eastern

April 8
Dugald Community Centre
Hosted by Dufresne WI
Need info? Call Linda Rosenthal at 878-3097

Winnipeg Interlake

April 9
Grosse Isle Hall
Hosted by Grosse Isle

Southwest A

April 13 (afternoon only)
Erickson Lutheran Church
Hosted by Erickson WI

Three steps you can take to champion the ag industry:

- 1) **Speak up and speak positively.** Become an advocate and look for opportunities to talk about what's going well in agriculture. Fill in information gaps, dispel myths, and learn more about the industry.
- 2) **Remember: image matters.** What you say about agriculture influences how people view the industry. Promoting our industry will attract financing, build consumer trust, and get young people excited about opportunities in ag.
- 3) **Get involved and make a difference.** It's easy to join the conversation. Follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, and visit us at Ag-MoreThanEver.ca. We're counting on you to help tell the real story of Canadian agriculture.

Agriculture more than ever

Talking about social media

On January 21, 2016, members of MWI committees met with Vienna Badiuk from *The Buzz*— a marketing agency. Vienna had done her homework: she researched MWI's demographics and target audience and reviewed MWI's social media sites. She commented positively on MWI's logo and message. The committees will take Vienna's suggestions and determine what can be done to become a better social media marketer. Photo by Val Watt.



Bulletin Board

- The **deadline** for the next issue of *The News* is **April 4**.
- We look forward to seeing you at the **MWI AGM at Clear Lake from May 6-7**. See page 5 for full details. **You must register by 9:30 a.m. on May 7 in order to receive a voting card**. If you are unable to attend, please fill out the **proxy form** (page 11) and send it along.
- The **International Peace Garden Scholarship** week will take place **August 21-27, 2016**. Stay tuned for more info!
- The next issue of *The News* will include information on the **International Year of Pulses** and on **ACWW** (recent projects and resolutions to be debated at the ACWW Triennial Convention in August 2016).
- *The Institute News* will **focus** on **Winnipeg-Interlake Region** in the April edition. Please send your material to the editor by April 4.
- The next **MWI board meeting** will be held on **March 7** at Portage.
- The board decided some time ago that **two issues of The News would be distributed by e-mail only**. These are the January and June issues. If you were not able to access the January edition, please contact Joni at the office.
- **Cash calendars** will be sold as an MWI fundraiser in April.
- The Editor regrets that not much information was made available about the **regional conventions**. Contact your regional rep or regional president.

Verification of eligibility will be confirmed in advance of the AGM call to order, based on MWI membership records for the current year.

Calendar of Events

February 2016

Heart and Stroke Month

- 1 MWI board meeting (conference call)
- 15 Deadline for Erland Lee Award
- 19 WI Day
- 18-20 Fair Trade Conference, Winnipeg

March 2016

Nutrition Month

- 5 Deadline for MWI nominations
- 7 MWI board meeting, Portage
- 8 *International Women's Day*

April 2016

- 2 Northwest Region Convention
- 4 MWI board meeting (conference call)
- 4 Deadline for *The Institute News*
- 7 Southwest B Region Convention
- 8 Eastern Region Convention, Dugald
- 9 Winnipeg/Interlake Region Convention, Grosse Isle
- 13 Southwest A Region Convention, Erickson (afternoon)

- 16 Deadline for earlybird registration for ACWW Conference, UK

May 2016

- 2 MWI board meeting (conference call)
- 6-7 **MWI convention, Clear Lake**

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FWIC wants your feedback!

The national theme for this triennium is **Making Changes Count**. Women's Institute has been a beacon for change for Canadian women and their families and communities since its inception over 100 years ago. **We know change is imperative if the organization is to continue.** Let us continue to make positive change to help ourselves and to help others.

Please take a minute to provide FWIC with some feedback. We want to hear from you! Please consider responses to the following questions:

1. What can FWIC do to help WI branches thrive and recruit new members?
2. What could FWIC do better to serve the membership?
3. What Canada-wide project would interest you?

Please send your responses to fwic@gmail.com or mail them to FWIC, Box 209, 359 Blue Lake Road, St. George, Ontario N0E 1N0.