

# Newsletter | FEBRUARY 2021/MARCH 2021

Vol 104. No. 1



1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon, MB, Canada R7A 1L9

---

## Shared by Thelma Blahey our Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development rep.

The Manitoba government is launching a new rural service delivery model to modernize services provided to clients whose needs and expectations have changed, Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen announced.

“Meeting the needs of our clients with professional knowledge, current research and data, connections to appropriate links, and timely, unbiased information has always been a priority for our department,” said Pedersen. “The array of services that will be provided online, by telephone or in-person at agricultural service centres throughout the province will offer producers a convenient and client-focused means to access the programs and services that are available to them.”

Effective April 1, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development will leverage existing synergies with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) to offer a single window for Manitoba farmers and businesses seeking services provided by either organization.

Through the modernization of the department and MASC’s physical footprint, 17 rural and northern offices will continue to deliver a multitude of services including:

- 10 agricultural service centres will provide insurance, lending, farmland school tax rebate and wildlife damage compensation services; handling of licensing and permits applications; and provide agriculture and resource development program information;
- five centres focusing on resource management, and;
- two centres focusing on mineral or petroleum services.

To support the multichannel service delivery model, an interactive online chat program, which will allow clients to access real-time assistance from a smartphone, tablet, computer or through a toll-free number, will be developed in the future, the minister noted. In addition, each office will have a client-accessible kiosk to access online services and connect virtually with other government service providers.

“By investing in resources and new ideas, we are meeting clients’ needs to access services using a modern, robust approach,” said Pedersen. “We’re building capacity for future technological advances and elevating the client experience.”

**RURAL SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL OVERVIEW** Ten agricultural service centres will be located in: · Arborg, · Brandon, · Dauphin, · Headingley, · Killarney, · Morden, · Neepawa, · Portage la Prairie, · Steinbach, and · Swan River.

-30-

## **MWI SCHOLARSHIPS**

Do you have children, grandchildren or other friends or family who will be attending university in the Fall of 2021. Have then check out <http://www.redriverex.com/scholarships/> and click on the link for Manitoba Women’s Institute Scholarships to apply. Deadline is May 14, 2021.

### **Manitoba Women's Institute**

**Executive Administrator:** Angela Pickett  
1129 Queens Avenue Brandon MB R7A 1L9  
204-726-7135 Fax 204-726-6260 [mbwi@mymts.net](mailto:mbwi@mymts.net)



### **Provincial Board 2020-2021**

**President:** Debra Barrett, Box 1311 Stonewall ROC 2Z0 204-467-5777 [debramwi@gmail.com](mailto:debramwi@gmail.com)

**President—Elect:** Liz Chongva, Box 73 Dugald ROE 0K0 204-853-2007 [chongval@mymts.net](mailto:chongval@mymts.net)

**Past President:** Ann Mandziuk, Box 264 Minnedosa ROJ 1E0 204-966-3829  
[lamandziuk@gmail.com](mailto:lamandziuk@gmail.com)

### **Regional Representatives:**

**Eastern:** Janice Harrison, 48 Waterview Drive La Salle ROG 0A2 204-736-2613  
[janiceharrison@live.com](mailto:janiceharrison@live.com)

**Southwest:** Peggy Bradshaw, Box 278 Binscarth ROJ 0G0 204-532-2265 [margbrad@hotmail.ca](mailto:margbrad@hotmail.ca)

**Wpg.-Interlake:** Gisela Nolting, Box 87 Rosser ROH 1E0 204-467-5922 [hnolting@mymts.net](mailto:hnolting@mymts.net)

**Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development:** Thelma Blahey, Box 2000 Arborg ROC 0A0  
204-641-4133 [thelma.blahey@gov.mb.ca](mailto:thelma.blahey@gov.mb.ca)

**WI Canada/FWIC Provincial Representative:** Denise Joss, Box 1632 Lac du Bonnet ROE 1A0  
204-345-5288 [awsumden@hotmail.com](mailto:awsumden@hotmail.com)

**Manitoba Gov't Appointed Member:** Heather Cummings, Box 522 Neepawa ROJ 1H0  
204-476-5395 [ghcumm1@gmail.com](mailto:ghcumm1@gmail.com)

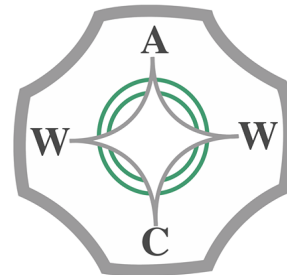


### **Mission Statement**

"Manitoba Women's Institute is an organization that focuses on personal development, family agriculture, rural development and community action... locally and globally."

### **Vision Statement**

Manitoba Women's Institute strengthens women, families and communities.



visit [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) for a new ACWW experience

updated resources, new presentations,  
more information, easy membership renewals

### President's Thoughts

Greetings Everyone,

I imagine many of you are counting the extra minutes of daylight we are getting each day. I always count on my Aunt to let me know the exact amount of extra daylight we have enjoyed daily.

Have you ever heard of the **Nellie McClung Trailblazer's Award**. Well, you have now, MWI has been chosen to receive the Manitoba 150 Women Trailblazer 150 award. Congratulations to all of you! This award is all about YOU and the dedication you have shown to improving the lives of women, families, your local and global community over the last 110 years.



We have more exciting special news for you, we have some new members who are interested in starting two new institutes. How sensational is that! With the world the way it is right now any new institute will most likely start off as a virtual institute which will mean a new and exciting project for all of us to observe, develop and grow. Kudos to these “movers and shakers”!

Another bit of news to share with you is that our AGM 2021 will once again be held by a mail in ballot. We will be sending out the AGM information in February & March, which will give you plenty of time to read through the information while sipping your evening tea. The information package will include the Annual Book of Reports, Reviewed Year-end Financial statement for 2019-2020, and voting ballot. As usual, the Resolutions are included in this February newsletter, should anyone have questions on a resolution or any of the other AGM documents, please send your questions to the MWI office, or myself and we will get the answer/s for you, quickly. Our contact information is on page 2 of your Newsletter.

Personally, I really like the mail-in voting as it gives each MWI member equal access to voting. The in-person AGMs are wonderful, enlightening and inspiring, however, there are many members who are unable to attend and are very pleased to be given a vote “firsthand”. Let’s see if we can exceed the 71% of members who voted last year. Please take the time to exercise your right to vote this year.

On a different subject, like cats who leave their prints on front windows, many people are taking up the hobby of bird watching. My birds I must admit are very spoiled and get fed royally. In return they greet me eagerly each morning. If you are finding delight in watching the bird’s antics in your yard, then you may enjoy the “Wild Bird Watchers Bulletin” published monthly. This bulletin is free, provides bird watching information, plus tips and tricks for attracting a wide variety of birds. To sign up go to [www.thepreferedperch.ca](http://www.thepreferedperch.ca)

If you hear a bird call you cannot identify there is a website which can help you identify many bird songs. The website is [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/birds\\_songs\\_interactive/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/birds_songs_interactive/index.html)

The other website a friend shared with me, that helps bring warmth into my soul on a frosty day, is from the Shelmerdine Garden Centre in Winnipeg. If you go to **Shelmerdine.com** and search their site for gardening tips you will find a multitude of Gardening Tips from “All About Deer” to “Get the Kids Growing”. You can also sign up for their free email newsletter.

If you have found a website that brings new ideas and delight into your life, please share it with Angela our Exec Admin and we will get it into our newsletter for everyone to explore.

Bye for now, smile as you remember January is behind us, spring is right around the corner. A little pun for you – What did the grape do when it got stepped on? It let out a little wine! Until we can meet again, Stay warm and healthy. Wash your hands!

Respectfully,  
Debra Barrett

## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

February already, and I am not surprised because January flew by! I have been busy with updating this year's member records, committee and board meetings, preparing the Annual Report, and organizing Zoom sessions with members!

I thank those who have attended thus far, it has been fantastic to see your faces and have conversations when things are still in the "red" zone. We have received so much positive feedback from the attendees, and I'm sure the Marketing and Promotion committee would agree with me that after the Zoom sessions, we all had a very warm feeling! If you have not attended a call, please do try! Zoom help documents are available from the office. Zoom is free to download and is useable on a mobile phone, iPad or home computer.

We know that not all of our members are online. Please see our ad in this newsletter (below) for a Pen Pal connection! It is just another way that we can connect during this time of uncertainty.

For those that have provided an email address, please if you have not received correspondence from the office, email to check that I have the correct address. Many have come back undeliverable and I am in the process of calling those members, but it will take some time.

By the time you read this, you are hopefully aware that Manitoba Women's Institute is a Manitoba 150 Women Trailblazer award recipient! Congratulations members for all that you do for MWI!

If your Institute is having any online events or meetings you would like to add to our webpage calendar, please contact the office.

I am excited to welcome our new to MWI individual members! We have a number of new members, and although Covid prevents us from meeting in person, we all have to have hope that one day we may be together again!

Until next time, Angela

Executive Administrator



## LOOKING FOR A MANITOBAN PEN PAL?

Want to connect with a fellow MWI member across the miles? Simply phone the office at (204)726-7135 (leave a message) or email your name and address to [mbwi@mymts.net](mailto:mbwi@mymts.net) and you will be paired with another

MWI member

wanting a pen pal. Your name and mailing address will be given to another member in search of a pen pal.

Selection of pen pals will be

random, the only stipulation being members in the same Institute will not be paired.

# MANITOBA PEN PALS



# MEET A MEMBER

Originally from Scotland, **Sheona Smith** and her family moved to Manitoba in 2005. Sheona, her husband and 3 teenage children settled in the Newdale area. Sheona said she Googled to see if Women's Institutes existed in Canada. She found a local group Newdale Raven's Glen in the Newdale community.

When I first asked what her favourite season was, she said summer if it could be without mosquitoes. Sheona then confessed that every season holds something special for her. In the fall, she enjoys her job as tractor driver and hauling grain with the grain cart. It gives her the opportunity to see lots of wildlife in the fields as she waits for the combine hopper to fill. Spring with the weather warming, new growth happening is always enjoyable. Sheona enjoys photography so each season also gives her plenty of new subjects!

Winter gives her time to pursue her musical interest. Covid-19 put an end to that last year and this year so far. In a 'normal' year she would be singing with the Strathclair Chorus, practising and then performing in various communities in the surrounding area.

As well as the Chorus, Sheona got involved with the Strathclair Drama Club, at first behind the scenes and now with the orchestra for the musical productions. She plays piano but using a keyboard she can fill in as almost any musical instrument, when needed.

Her musical interests in the community were a perfect segue into what is your favourite band, musician or song. Scottish music remains a favourite. With Covid-19 there are many groups and bands that are hosting on-line concerts and the magic of the internet allows anyone to listen to concerts and groups they like at a variety of times during the day and from anywhere in the world. Sheona really has no particular favourite type of music she listens to – she enjoys country music and easy listening songs. She did comment that being part of the Strathclair Chorus has introduced her to many songs and some that she never would have heard if she had not been part of the chorus.

Sheona feels she has become more patient living through the last year and all that goes with Covid-19. She has spent more time at home and partaking in activities she enjoys. She has time to spend playing her accordion and has started taking guitar lessons. Being treasurer of several community organizations keeps her busy even if many aren't meeting right now.

As mentioned, Sheona researched WI before she moved to Canada. In Scotland, both her and her sister were members of an institute and enjoyed the monthly outings to meeting with speakers and other activities. Arriving in Canada, Sheona joined the group Newdale Raven's Glen in her community and was a member until they disbanded over a year ago. She has since joined as an individual member to stay involved.

Since being a member in Manitoba some of her favourite memories revolve around the friendship, fellowship and activities she participated in. As a newcomer, many of the locations her local visited on their 'outings' were places she might not have visited or known about otherwise.

As we ended our conversations, Sheona was heading out the door for a guitar lesson.

Interviewed by Ann Mandziuk



**Resolution re: Internet coverage in Manitoba submitted by Marketing and Promotion Committee Manitoba Women's Institute.**

**Be it resolved that** Manitoba Women's Institute request the provincial and federal governments and Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission to require all telecommunication companies operating in Manitoba to provide full high-speed internet coverage in all rural/remote areas of Manitoba.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2020, COVID-19 brought to the forefront serious gaps in Manitoban's access to readily available reliable highspeed Internet coverage. The headline of an article in the April 16, 2020 edition of the Winnipeg Free Press states 'Virtual Parliament difficult for rural Manitoba MPs'.

"In the House of Commons, we all sit there with the same privileges and rights." said Tory MP James Bezan, who represents a rural riding north of Winnipeg. "A virtual sitting may take away that equality, because of the inequity of Wi-Fi, broadband, 4G and whether you have fibre optic or cable."

In Manitoba we have one of the slowest Internet speeds in Canada as reported by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission. There are gaps in all parts of the province. An internal briefing note prepared by Industry Canada in August 2018 said "northern Manitoba has the worst connectivity in all of Canada."

"Without highspeed Internet signals, audio and video connections can have very garbled audio sounds and jerky video pictures making technology such as Zoom, Skype, Facetime and Google Hangouts very difficult to make use of and frustrating to take part in.

Gaps in Internet service are not only affecting our federal MPs but also businesses and services provided by companies in rural communities. COVID-19 emergency program information and applications are found on the computer and it is difficult to apply for benefits if you have unreliable service. With schools, colleges and universities being closed, students are expected to do much of their work on the computer – again not really feasible with weak, unreliable Internet connections. COVID-19 has also highlighted how overwhelmed our Internet service can become by government at all levels, businesses large and small, those forced to work and learn from home and families trying to stay in touch with each other during this time of social distancing. Visitation restrictions to many medical/care facilities has been severely limited leaving social media via the Internet as one of the only means to actually 'see' family.

Those businesses deemed non-essential have scrambled to stay in business by turning to the Internet to sell their products. High-speed Internet has never before been as important to so many sectors in rural Manitoba.

In November 2020 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced further funding (Connecting all Canadians to high-speed Internet November 9, 2020) for high-speed Internet for all across Canada. The goal is connecting all Canadians by 2030 – still a long way off for those without services.

In January 2021 an announcement was made closing, to the farming population, some Agriculture Offices in rural Manitoba.

'These changes represent a modernization in how services are delivered. It also says they are accompanied by investment in technology to make that happen.' (Laura Rance Closures a sign of changes in ag landscape Winnipeg Free Press January 9, 2021) To stay in step with the changes in their industry farmers in Manitoba need equal and equitable access to high-speed in their homes all across our province.

When Covid-19 arrived in early 2020 no one could predict how long we would be affected. We are one year out from the closures to businesses, offices, and schools, universities, colleges and many are still struggling with Internet availability and speed.

**Resolution re: Broad licensing for on-farm slaughter submitted by Woodmore Women's Institute.**

**Be it resolved that** Manitoba Women's Institute urge Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development to implement a broad licensing program for on-farm slaughter, butchering, and sales thereof to the general public.

This could include, for example,

- \* the training and licensing of slaughter technicians
- \* training and/or licensing of individuals to butcher
- \* flexible and achievable protocols for safe slaughter, butchering, and meat storage on-farm
- \* accessible guidelines for reasonably affordable and reasonably safe facilities

\* tools for helping farmers and rural community members convert existing buildings to facilities that will enable them to provide quality food to their communities and to the general public

\* updating of regulation to facilitate this licensing.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Currently, the meat industry is highly centralized and regulation is written to support this highly centralized system. This has had an impact on food security, meat prices, animal welfare, the environment, rural communities and economies, and food safety. COVID-19 has revealed the disruption to the food supply when an outbreak occurs at one of the large facilities. The vulnerability of our access to food is heightened when meat processing is condensed into large, high capacity, densely staffed facilities. Any disruptions to the facility, the staff, or the business operations has an immediate impact. Those disruptions, in addition to making vulnerable the food security in our cities, can cause sky rocketing meat prices. Animals must be shipped to centralized kill-plants, impacting their welfare and the environment. When animals are transported thousands of kilometres, despite efforts to regulate that transport, the fact of the transport itself, the stress on the animals, the potential for injury and the potential for disease dissemination creates significant risk. There are many consumers and farmers alike who see this, and would support the positive impact a program of safe food locally grown and processed could provide. Also of concern at the current time are two things: the impact of trucking on the spread of COVID-19 and the corresponding emissions in the face

of serious climate concerns. A program to increase on-farm and local slaughter for sale could help in both cases. Some of the resources we have in our province to facilitate the improvement of the industry are the many skilled individuals who are familiar with the challenges of on-farm slaughter, who currently do on-farm for farm family consumption, many of whom also have excellent practical food safety records. We also have a vibrant construction industry with many capable builders who with simple, accessible guidelines could quickly learn to create sufficient facilities for food processing. Guidelines that are equally accessible, but perhaps more involved, could be provided where there is an expectation of higher animal unit processing. By creating a broad licensing program for on-farm slaughter, butchering and sales, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development has the potential to minimize the reach of food safety outbreaks, increase stability of food security in the province, lower our carbon footprint, increase animal welfare and provide quality and affordable Manitoba meat to Manitobans. These measures could improve the economies of our rural communities and the livelihoods and lives of the people who live in them.

#### **Resolution re: Creation of Seniors Advocate Office submitted by Domain Women's Institute.**

**Be it resolved that** Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care and

the Manitoba government to install the Office of Seniors Advocate for the protection of Manitoba Seniors.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Seniors Advocate would be a statutory office of the government, legislated and empowered with real authority to advocate on seniors' issues, and influence provincial government policy. Such positions are already in place in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. This office would be responsible for monitoring seniors' services, analyzing issues important to the welfare of seniors generally and advocating in the interests of seniors.

With 39 personal care homes in Winnipeg alone, there is an urgent need within Manitoba for the Seniors Advocate position. The Seniors Advocate position would have the authority to identify and analyze challenges faced by seniors who are in long term care and to act to improve their welfare. Everyday issues that need addressing including staffing levels, accreditation and wage equity could all be addressed by the office of the Seniors Advocate.

Manitoba Health Coalition has researched and is advocating for Manitoba legislation to form the Seniors Advocate position. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 the Coalition issued the following statement: "Manitoba seniors/older adults have been left with a patchwork system that fails to listen to them, meet their needs and effectively address longstanding systemic issues. A centralized, coordinated Office of Seniors Advocate can identify and amplify best practices and resources to

all older Manitobans and their families”.

There have been lessons learned by our pandemic, but they must become lessons put into practice. One example is the present accreditation process where long term care facilities are notified when they will be inspected. With a Seniors Advocate in place, such visits should become “unannounced visits” where the true everyday life of the facility is in full view.

There is a critical need to improve and expand on seniors’ care in Manitoba. Manitoba Women’s Institute strongly requests our Manitoba government to implement legislation immediately and appoint a Manitoba Seniors Advocate to prioritize work on the many issues facing our growing elder population.

**Resolution : Mental Health Forensic Assessments in Manitoba submitted by Fisher Branch Women’s Institute**

**Be it Resolved that** Manitoba Women’s Institute entreat the Province of Manitoba’s Minister for Mental Health, Audrey Gordon and Minister of Justice, Cameron Friesen to draft and implement legislation to ensure the provision of adequate mental health housing, treatment and Forensic Psychiatric Assessment services to meet the needs of the people of Manitoba.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Forensic Unit of the Health Sciences Centre there are only 15 Forensic assessment beds available in Manitoba to meet the high volume of assessment requirements for Manitoba plus many areas of Nunavut and Northwest Ontario. The purpose of a forensic assessment is to determine an individual’s level of mental health illness and recommend the treatment necessary to

assist the patient in achieving “normal” function.

The issue arises with the waiting periods for Forensic assessments. Many individuals are put on a wait list for up to or in excess of 6 months. During this time a large volume of individuals are placed in solitary confinement for months without mental health treatment and/or medical care at Correctional Centres.

Family who attempt to advocate on their loved one’s behalf are informed their loved one is over the age of 18 and therefore is solely responsible for his or her care and decision making. However, in many cases the individual is unable to view the world clearly or make rational decisions due to severe mental health illness. Secrecy and hiding behind a misinterpretation of the “Privacy Act” becomes the norm.

In some cases, mental health illness is a direct result of medical professionals prescribing the consumption of marijuana (aka weed, pot) without medical follow up. Many individuals are unable to metabolize marijuana which results in the person having psychotic episodes which include auditory and visual hallucinations, encapsulated delusions, and extreme paranoia regarding themselves or the ones they love. This paranoia may result in acting out behaviours which results in legal charges being incurred due to the lack of mental health protocols within the medical and judicial systems.

What is the use of the “Tell Someone” slogan if telling someone gets you no service or a turnstile 24-hour service which results in a high volume of suicides and incar-

cerations of our young and older persons? Remember not just the young cannot metabolize marijuana. Our senior generation, like our youth, are starting to be prescribed medical marijuana for their aches and pains, therefore, we can expect to see the same scenario happen with our senior population. Imagine being a senior confined to a six foot by six-foot room in a personal care or mental health care facility or prison with no rights or treatment, subjected to physical abuse and disrespect because you are classified as demented when in reality you are experiencing marijuana based mental health issues.

Now imagine you are one of these mentally ill people who has no support system, few financial resources and an ever-increasing disability to speak on your own behalf due to a lack of treatment. Where would you wind up – in a correctional facility facing daily mistreatment such as violence, hunger, cruelty or in a cardboard box living under a bridge. With adequate mental health care many individuals could receive mental health services that would preempt their illness progressing to a debilitating level.

**Resolution: Long Term Care Facilities submitted by Domain Women’s Institute.**

**Be it resolved that** Manitoba Women’s Institute urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care and the Manitoba government to give immediate attention to the multiple problems associated with Long Term Care in the province of Manitoba.

**BACKGROUND:**

Long Term Care (LTC) refers to

residential facilities with 24-hour nursing care. In Manitoba, the majority of people living in long term care reside in personal care homes. Older Canadians now represent Canada's fastest growing demographic.

Dr. Allan Ronald, a retired physician renowned for his international work on infectious diseases, writes, in the January 3, 2021 Winnipeg Free Press, that the most important priority for all of Canada is building a better LTC system, one that is nationally regulated.

More specifically, the main issues include the following:

- \* Manitobans understand the critical need to increase minimum staffing levels in personal care homes to ensure our seniors have the care and attention they deserve. This means full-time employment for all staff members, to ensure quality and consistency of care.

- \* Increased training of health care aides would improve the knowledge/qualifications of the aides and would promote a feeling of pride and professionalism in the job.

- \* Equitable salaries across the board would help to improve the adequacy of staffing in all LTC facilities.

- \* Diligent reviews of LTC facilities, follow up inspections and consequences for not meeting the regulated standards need to be implemented.

- \* Reviews of facilities must be transparent and the Public must have access to all such reviews and inspection reports.

The issue of LTC providing adequate and compassionate care to the senior population must be addressed now. With the population of seniors growing faster than ever before, health care, social services, and economic systems must be continually reviewed to ensure that they remain

sustainable and continue to meet the needs of all Canadians as they age.

Covid-19 has revealed multiple shortcomings within the walls of LTC facilities. Let's take these revelations and act swiftly to ensure wholesome care for our senior sector.

Our seniors deserve homes where their physical, mental and emotional needs are considered priority and are met. They deserve clean and attractive living spaces where they are treated with dignity and respect.

There needs to be focused improvements now, permanent improvements, that speak to the need for safe, adequate LTC facilities that provide all the necessities of life for our most precious population, now and in the future.

**Resolution: Improved Long Term Care Facilities to meet Present & Future Needs** submitted by Joan Clement, Lynne Hopley, Elaine Thompson, Marion McNabb, Enid Clark

**Be it resolved that** Manitoba Women's Institute petition the Federal Minister of Health and the Federal Minister Without Portfolio-responsible for the Prairies to:

- \* Work for the increase of Federal transfer payments for Health to the province to recognize the increasing need in long-term health care facilities.

- \* Encourage the construction of not-for-profit vs for profit facilities.

- \* Build accountability into funding programs to ensure that dollars provided under the Canada Health Act are utilized by provinces to meet the expanding

needs of our aging population in care.

- \* Encourage the modification of the Federal Infrastructure program so that new long-term facility builds or upgrades to existing facilities can fall under this type of cost share funding.

And further, that the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada work with the provinces to develop a Pan Canadian Health Human Resources Strategy to attract and train people to and support training needs of work in the long-term care sector.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The changing demographics of long-term care residents.

By 2036, the number of Canadians over 65 will increase by 25% and the number of seniors over 80 will double. These seniors are entering care homes at a later stage in their condition with more complex health issues (dementia, multiple chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis) and are more physically frail and require 24/7 care. Seniors living in rural areas are more likely to be admitted to long term care rather than remain at home due to fewer home care services being offered in rural and remote areas. Two thirds of those admitted to long term care are women and 50% are over 85 years of age. There are many reasons why it becomes necessary to live in a personal care home. In rural areas financial stress in obtaining services on their own can hasten the process for many residents. With these thoughts in mind, we need to think about the physical structures available. Manitoba has

125 homes with 57% being publicly owned, 13% privately owned for profit and 30% private not for profit. (Sep 24, 2020 Stats Canada data). The vast number of facilities for seniors were built in the early 1970s and reflect a different type of client and need. Many Manitoba care homes are now over 40 years old. It is estimated that Manitoba's not for profit care homes require \$6 million in upgrades. Long term care homes in Canada require significant renovations or to be rebuilt. Homes were previously built with 3 – 4 residents to a bedroom, hospital like wards, shared bathrooms and bathing areas, crowded dining rooms, small hallways, and nursing stations too close to residents' rooms. In 1973 many needed some assistance with basic care while today these facilities are operating as another branch of acute care. New or renovated care homes feature larger private or semi-private rooms, wider hallways to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, spacious common rooms, as well as updated washrooms, bathing areas, and wheelchair accessible showers. Demands for long term care continue to surge even while there are current shortages. In 2016, it was estimated that there was a shortage of 263,000 beds and the shortage continues to grow at 15% per year. If long term care beds are not available, the individual often ends up in acute care. The cost of an ACL bed is up to \$1800 per day while a long-term care bed averages \$200. With adequate long-term care facilities, the health system would save 2.3 billion dollars annually. Therefore, the goal should be for the federal government to fund additional capacity by 42,000 long term beds by 2023. Governments need to invest in better infrastructure, data, and human resource planning so seniors

can receive the care they need. Expanded infrastructure funding rules could allow for funding to include senior housing which would impact on long term care 1/3- 2/3 split between federal, provincial, and local municipal funding. Personal care homes are often understaffed, poorly equipped and standards are not consistent throughout the province. Where emphasis is on for-profit care, care and standards are notably lowered. Patient health and safety are paramount. All care facilities receive the same level of provincial funding but often management must control expenses by restricting availability of supplies. Trading safety for profit is not acceptable. The 2020 Provincial funding went to safety upgrades to ensure facilities met the present fire codes but did not address staffing or operational shortfalls. Labour shortage in long term care is complex. Attracting and retaining individuals to a career caring for seniors is difficult. One source of labour is attracting workers from other countries, but the criteria are difficult to achieve and are more difficult for those who are rural or further away from training facilities. The federal government needs to address the gap in Post Graduate Work programs (PGWP) eligibility. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration must establish a limited program that provides provincially approved and certified programs at designated learning institutions to meet the requirements for health care-based programs. There should be a Pan Canadian Health Human Resources Strategy which supports

the training needs for workers in the long-term care sector. The Covid-19 outbreak has reflected the crisis in the long-term system. Long term care should be under the Canada Health Act so there is consistency across Canada. Currently, the money has been sent from Ottawa and the province determine its use. Often long-term care is the loser.

David Pfrimmer says that "If you want to know what privatization of health care looks like, long term care is a cautionary tale." (Free Press July 2020)

*Report—Building on Values, The Future of Health Care in Canada—Canadian Association of Long term care caltc.ca (@ CALTC-CA*

### SEEDY SATURDAY

If you live close to Winnipeg and are interested in gardening check out the website <https://gardensmanitoba.com/seedysaturday/>

It will give you the information on the multi phase event happening in February and March

Phase 1 –Seed Collection  
Phase 2—Seed orders  
Phase 3 Seed Distribution





### ACWW Canada Area Conference

#### FWIC Past Presidents Competition

Design a pin that would represent both the FWIC Triennial Convention & ACWW Canada Area Conference. (Maybe include a Covid-19 symbol somewhere in your design!) Deadline extended to March 31, 2021.

Send your lapel pin design in a JPG format to Linda Hoy. Canada@acww.org.uk

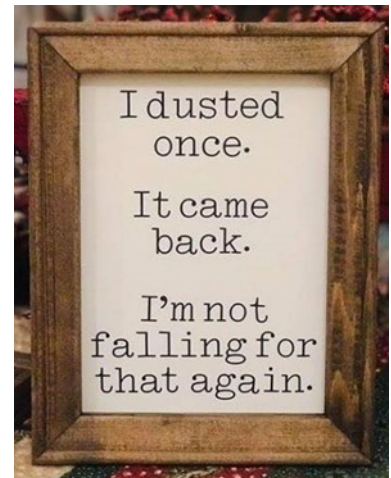


#### FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

January 12, 2021 – As Canada Area President, this important communication is issued to all Canadian members of The Associated Country Women of the World. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions it has been decided after discussion with Newfoundland & Labrador WI, FWIC President & Board and the ACWW Canada Area Conference Committee, that the rescheduled Canada Area Conference to be held in St. John's, NL (June 2021) be cancelled. Back in the fall, many of you expressed concern about travelling and I truly understood your concern. Things have not improved but instead have gotten worse in most areas of Canada. I do not want to expose any of you to more stress or risk your health. Instead it will be a "virtual" meeting that we have scheduled over two days – July 12 & 13, 2021. More details to follow.

FWIC/WI Canada have rescheduled theirs to July 5 & 6, 2021.

Linda Hoy, Canada Area President



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations proclaimed 2021 "International Year of Fruits and Vegetables" to raise awareness about the healthy eating and sustainable food production.

The World Health Organization recommends that adults eat at least 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per day to prevent chronic diseases (cancer, diabetes, heart disease and obesity).

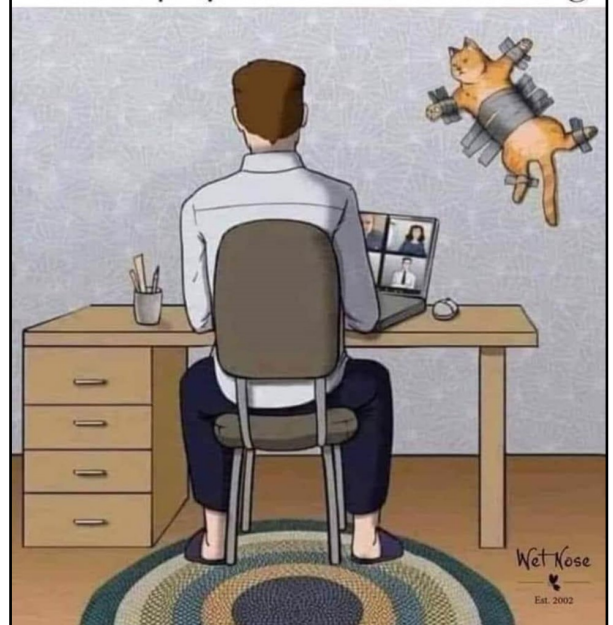
Many families started their first garden last summer, either in their back yard, in flower pots, raised beds or on window sills.

Submitted by Gisela Nolting

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee



#### How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



## Coming Events

### FEBRUARY 2021

17—MB Farm Women's Conference Speaker Rebecca Gray: Mental Health First Aid (free but you need to register to get the link to use)  
19—Manitoba Women's Institute Day  
23—Canada's Agriculture Day  
27—Adelaide Hunter Hoodless's birthday

### MARCH 2021

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month  
8—International Women's Day  
21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The **Institute News** is published six times per year.

ISBN 1188-0961

Next issue: April 2021

Published by

**Manitoba Women's Institute.**

To comment or to make a submission, please send an e-mail to:

mbwi@mymnts.net

## **MWI Members** **The True Jewels of our Organization**

MWI members have a 110+ year history of being 'movers and shakers' in their communities and leaders focused on women's issues. Women are known to positively impact the lives of those in their family, community, province and globally. However, our MWI members do not always get the respect and recognition they deserve for going above and beyond in aid of those around them.

The MWI Board is starting new initiatives whereby our membership can formally recognize those MWI members they know who deserve a huge pat on the back.

Institutes and Individual members who wish to recommend a MWI member to receive a '**Volunteer of the Year**' award, or a '**Certificate of Recognition**' should provide the name of the deserving person to our Exec. Admin, at the MWI office. The recommendation must include a few sentences sharing the recommended member's commitment and service to MWI.

There will also be an "**In Memoriam**" added in our newsletters to pay tribute to those members who have passed on to greater volunteer opportunities beyond this world.

Lastly, the Board would like to recognize in our Newsletter an '**Institute of the Month**' or '**Individual Member of the Month**'. For institutes, please include the year your institute was founded, the year your institute received its charter, your longest serving member, annual event/s you are most proud of, and the total average volunteer hours of your members. For Individual member, please include the year the member became a member of MWI, the annual event/s the member assists with, and the annual volunteer hours the member contributes on behalf of MWI.

These initiatives will start by recognizing members of this current year, November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021.