

Funding for FASD Diagnostic Clinics

- WHEREAS It is recognized that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term which encompasses such illnesses as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) (also known as Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)), Alcohol-Related Birth Defects (ARBD) and others, and
- WHEREAS it is known that persons suffering from FASD are substantially more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system and many of them struggle with depression, substance abuse and other health issues, and
- WHEREAS in April, 2007, the Manitoba Government announced the implementation of a co-ordinated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategy, and followed it up in September, 2008 with the launch of Spectrum Connections, and
- WHEREAS there still remains in Manitoba a lack of diagnostic capabilities in the area of FASD, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council through the Manitoba Provincial Council, urge all Manitoba members to lobby the Manitoba Provincial Government to:
- 1) expand diagnostic screening capabilities in an effort to reduce wait times for diagnosis, and
 - 2) establish equitable access to diagnostic clinics for each of the Health Authorities in the Province, and be it further
- RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Winnipeg Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at their 88th Annual Convention.

Brief – Funding for FASD Diagnostic Clinics

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term which encompasses such illnesses as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) (also known as Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)), Alcohol-Related Birth Defects (ARBD) and others.

It is known that persons suffering from FASD are substantially more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system and many of them struggle with depression, substance abuse and other health issues. All of these issues involve heavy use of tax dollars, from the additional resources required in the school system, to the medical system and the justice system.

In April, 2007, the Manitoba Government announced the implementation of a co-ordinated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategy, and followed it up in September, 2008 with the launch of Spectrum Connections, which is a mobile support team for people and their families suffering from the effects of FASD.

These are very positive initiatives, and they also serve to raise awareness of this issue; however, with all that has been done, there still remains in Manitoba a lack of diagnostic capabilities in the area of FASD. At the present time, there is only ONE diagnostic clinic in Manitoba capable of diagnosing FASD. Our present clinic is overloaded, and so the screening capability of this facility needs to be expanded in an effort to reduce wait times, and there needs to be equitable access to diagnostic clinics for all Manitobans, no matter which Health Authority they reside in. It would also make sense to establish additional diagnostic clinics so that people are not forced to travel excessive distances and stay in unfamiliar surroundings longer than necessary. In addition, more emphasis needs to be put on our aboriginal population, focusing on education and treatment of addictions. There is no mention in any of the Provincial Government's announcements on expanding diagnostic capabilities; only of the Spectrum Connections, which in itself is a very good program; but it does not reach far enough.

ACTION PLAN: We therefore urge all Manitobans to lobby their MLA's and the Minister of Health to urge them to allocate more resources to this very worthy cause.

Since a large proportion of people suffering from FASD are Aboriginal, and Aboriginal Health falls under Federal Jurisdiction, we recommend that this Resolution be directed not only to our Provincial Government, but also to the Federal Government.

Resolution: Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking

- Whereas** Human Trafficking has been recognized as a serious problem in our society, and countless ethnic and cultural organizations in Manitoba and around the world are taking action on the issue of Human Trafficking, and
- Whereas** the Manitoba Government has unanimously passed Doug Martindale's Private Member's Resolution on Human Trafficking urging both the Federal and Manitoba governments to work with all interested parties and jurisdictions to develop strategies to combat this issue; therefore be it
- Resolved** that Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, urges the Manitoba Provincial Government to implement new ad campaigns educating Manitobans on the dangers of human trafficking; and be it further
- Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded to the Winnipeg Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at their 88th Annual convention.

Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is in the top three illicit money making activities in the world, along with weapons and drugs. Further, Human Trafficking is alive and well right here in Canada, and right here in Manitoba. Women, youth and children, some as young as 7 years old, are bought and sold, drugged and forced to sell their bodies on the streets. Any resistance results in intimidation, severe beatings, or worse. It is estimated that several hundred people are trafficked into and through Canada annually. Aboriginal women and girls are particularly at risk, as the following statistics indicate:

- 90% of teen-aged prostitutes in Canada are Aboriginal
- 75% of Aboriginal girls under 18 have been sexually abused
- More than 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing or been murdered in Canada.

Although Canada has made progress in working to meet international standards on human trafficking, there is still much to be done.

The consequences of a life in the sex trade industry are huge. Women and youth are NOT standing on a street corner in the middle of winter because they love what they do – they are there because they are either supporting an addiction or because they're intimidated into doing so, or both. Not only is there a huge impact on the victim herself and her family, but on the community as a whole. If there is an area that is frequented by sex trade workers, there is increased vehicular traffic throughout the evening and night, there is litter that small children should not be exposed to, such as used condoms and needles, there are acts and language, not to mention violence that one does not want small children to witness, and there is increased criminal activity such as fights, muggings, robberies, etc.

Those customers of the sex trade (johns) who have been detained, charged, and required to attend john school, almost without exception, state that the women/girls/young men enjoy sex, want to be where they are, and are working independently. There is a definite need to educate the customers.

ACTION PLAN: That our members undertake a letter writing campaign to:

- 1) Lobby our MLA's to implement new ad campaigns, educating Manitobans on the harmful effects of human trafficking, and the negative impacts on the individuals involved, their families and the community as a whole, and
- 3) Continue to press our Justice System for tough penalties on those who promote activities leading to Human Trafficking.