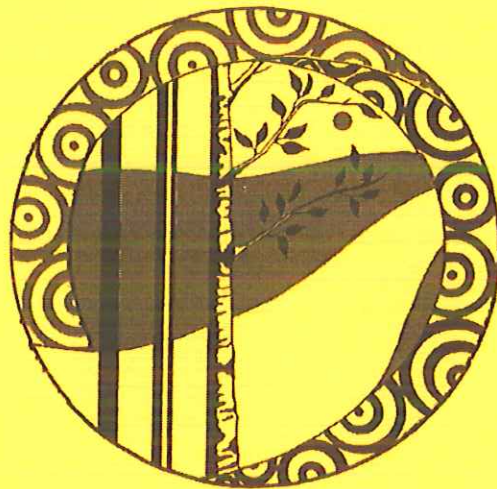


# *The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba*



## *2006/2007 Annual Report*

*Our Mandate: "The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba actively seeks to reduce to number of women and girls involved in the criminal justice system."*

**THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Location: Elizabeth Fry Society Office**

**544 Selkirk Avenue**

**September 27, 2006**

**Present:** Debra Parkes, Angie Bruce, Mary Guilbault, Tracy Booth, Denise Pelland and Nancy Fazenda and Margaret Marin

**Regrets:** Rachel Charette, and Sarah Inness

**Members Present:** Brenda Syrenne - Wahbung, D. Bushe – Oyate, Steph Anderson, Lisa Jacques – OH, Linda Chisholm – Wahbung, D. Foltz – Wahbung, Belinda VandenBroeck – Wahbung, Gwenda Templeton – United Way, Cheryl L.– ICR, Sharon Allard – NECRC, Elaine Bishop – NPDWomen’s Centre, Debbie Enns OFE, Shawn Mahoney – OFE, Betty Juselies – NECRC – Path, Robert Neufeld – NECRC, Michael H – ICPM, Paul Leygraaf – United Way, Darlene Proctor – Thornton & Co, Ronda Garrioch – CEDA, Shilene O’Brien – SOB/EFS, Marcie T – EFS,

**Welcome** Margaret Marin (recently appointed Executive Director)

**Prayer**

An opening prayer was given by Mary Guilbault

**Staff, Board & Volunteer Introductions**

Marcie Tavares, Provincial Reintegration Coordinator introduced staff, Board members and volunteers who were present to the membership at large.

**Recognition for Long Service**

Tracy Booth on behalf of the board of directors and staff recognized Mary Guilbault and Debra Parkes with traditional blankets and honour song for their dedication and support with Elizabeth Fry Society.

**Minutes of the 2005 AGM**

The minutes of 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Elizabeth Fry Society were reviewed. Tracy Booth moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Angie Bruce; carried.

## **President's Report**

The President's Report was delivered by Debra Parkes. Debra thanked the hard work of the previous President Charlene Gutscher and acknowledges the continued support of the current board members and addressed the completion of the EFS renovations and a heartfelt thank you to all the funders and make our work possible. Debra Parkes made a motion to accept the President's Report, written and circulated in advance. This motion was seconded by Mary Guilbault; carried.

## **Agency Report**

The Agency Report was delivered by Margaret Marin. Margaret Marin, the Executive Director reviewed the overall programs delivered at EFS and made a motion to accept the Agency Report, which was written and circulated in advance. Tracy Booth seconded that motion; carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was delivered by both Angie Bruce – EFS Treasurer and Darlene Rector – Thornton & Co., who provided a synopsis and review of the financial statements.

Linda Chisholm made a motion to accept the financial statements from 2005-2006. This motion was seconded by Debra Parkes; carried.

Tracy Booth made a motion to accept Thornton & Company as the financial auditors for the Elizabeth Fry Society for 2006-2007. Linda Chisholm seconded this motion; carried.

## **Nominating Committee Report for the Board Slate for 2006-2007**

The Nominating Committee moved to accept the following slate of Board members for 2006-2007: Brenda Syrenne and Chickadee Richards. Mary Guilbault made the motion for the slate to be accepted; seconded by Debra Parkes; carried.

Christina Cook added to board member slate.

## **Concluding remarks**

Given by Tracy Booth thanking everyone in attendance and invited all participants to join in drum ceremony with dancers in support of the women and girls incarcerated in jail and their families.

A motion was made by Tracy Booth to adjourn the meeting; Debra Parkes seconded the motion; carried.

## **Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies Report**

### **Debra Parkes, Prairie Region Representative**

My third year as Prairie Region Rep to our national umbrella organization, CAEFS, was another busy one. In 2006-2007, CAEFS continued to be active nationally and internationally with various partnerships, advocacy projects, and law reform initiatives aimed at addressing and attempting to reverse the increasing numbers of women being criminalized and incarcerated. Here on the Prairies, we continue to have the dubious distinction of seeing some of the greatest increases in women's imprisonment, with particularly alarming rates of incarceration of Aboriginal women.

CAEFS' Executive Director, Kim Pate, continues to provide strong leadership nationally and internationally, speaking out on issues of injustice and working proactively with government and community partners to address the needs of women who are criminalized and to promote alternatives to incarceration.

As just one of example of the important work done by our national office, CAEFS has been successful in opposing in court the Correctional Service of Canada's decision In February 19, 2007 to close the only minimum security prison for federally sentenced women, the Isabel McNeill Minimum Security House (IMH) in Kingston. While the case will be heard in full on October 9, 2007, the Ontario Court of Appeal has already overturned the lower court's decision concerning the closure and has ordered IMH to remain open, ruling that the women must not be moved until the legality of the proposed transfer and closure is decided in court in October. The Crown confirmed that, pursuant to the Court of Appeal's decision, CSC would not be moving the women pending the hearing.

CAEFS and its member organizations look forward to the day when our work will no longer be necessary: when all women and girls have adequate income, access to education, safe and affordable housing, freedom from violence, abuse, and racism, and access to justice in all its many forms. In the meantime, we will continue our advocacy work. And we must admit to being concerned about the approach advocated by our current federal government, an approach that prioritizes costly and ineffective punitive policies such as increasing the number of mandatory minimum sentences and reducing the availability of conditional sentences and community-based programs. In these heightened "law and order" times, the work of CAEFS and its local societies is even more vital than ever. CAEFS has submitted briefs and appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human rights to oppose Bills C-9 (limiting conditional sentences) and C-10 (increasing mandatory minimum sentences), among other law reform and public awareness initiatives. I urge speak out in your communities about these matters and to take them up with your federal representatives.

I also urge you to check out the many resources, fact sheets, advocacy materials, press releases, and submissions to government bodies available on CAEFS website: [www.elizabethfry.ca](http://www.elizabethfry.ca)

Finally, I thank the membership of the Prairie Region, as well as CAEFS board members, staff, and federally sentenced women, for the privilege of being a part of CAEFS' work over the past three years.

## **President's Report**

It has been an honour for me to serve as President for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, which was a time of growth for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba.

In September 2006, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Margaret Marin, a Métis woman with extensive experience leading community-based organizations in both Northern and Southern Manitoba. We have also continued our initiative to recruit more Aboriginal women our board and the organization has benefited from the contributions of Rachel Charette, Chickadee Richard, Christina Cook, and Brenda Syrenne. The financial expertise of Kelly Reaume as Treasurer has also been a huge asset to the organization. At the same time, we have said goodbye to two outstanding board members, Sarah Inness and Nancy Fazenda, both dedicated criminal defence lawyers who contributed to in so many ways to the work of EFS Manitoba. And since the end of the fiscal year, we have been delighted to see Wendy Martin White and Stacey Soldier come on board, both of whom will bring legal expertise to the organization. We are also thrilled to welcome Angie Bruce back from maternity leave. It has been an honour to work with all of these women, as well as the dedicated staff and volunteers of EFS Manitoba.

### **Human Rights Advocacy**

While it took place after the end of the 2006-2007, I want to take a moment to reflect on the settlement of EFS Manitoba's Human Rights Complaints with Manitoba Justice reached in June 2007. As many of you know, the basis of the complaints, which were filed five and a half years ago, was that women experience discrimination on the basis of sex, race, and disability, due to the location and facilities of the Portage Correctional Centre, as well as the lack of attention to their needs and circumstances, including those as Aboriginal women and mothers. In short, due to their small numbers relative to men, and despite the fact that they generally pose a low risk to the community, women have generally been a "correctional afterthought."

After a lengthy investigation, the Human Rights Commission found merit in the complaints and referred the parties to mediation. A series of productive discussions with Manitoba Justice recently resulted in a settlement of the complaints which includes a number of important aspects to improve the situation of criminalized women, such as:

- a commitment by Manitoba Justice to work with the Human Rights Commission to develop and deliver human rights training for all staff and prisoners, to integrate human rights training at all levels of Corrections, and to ensure that accountability for human rights compliance is part of managerial accountability in Corrections;
- establishment of a Women's Program Advisory Committee to be co-chaired by EFS Manitoba and Manitoba Justice, which will bring together community groups to provide input on women-centred and culturally-appropriate programs and services at all existing and proposed correctional facilities for women. This body will provide an important mechanism for accountability and dialogue with the community;
- positive changes made at PCC such as hiring an Aboriginal cultural worker, providing free tampons to women, funding a small-scale literacy program, providing better telephone access, and enhancing computer access and training; and
- a commitment to a number of future initiatives.

This complaint and the progress made through mediation is a first for Canada. A number of Elizabeth Fry Societies across the country will likely follow our lead to pursue human rights complaints in their provinces. It is also important to note that this human rights settlement is just one means by which we continue to advocate for the rights of criminalized women and girls. In particular, we are working with local and national partners to oppose the unproductive "law and order agenda" that sees increasing numbers of women incarcerated, at great fiscal and social cost to Canadians, and does not deliver on the promise of community safety.

The settlement agreement is posted on our website. We thank our lawyers Bev Froese and Veronica Jackson, the Human Rights Commission, the mediator Lawrie Cherniack, the representatives of Manitoba Justice who participated in the mediation, and the community partners who supported this complaint for many years. We look forward to working with you to continue this progress with and on behalf of Manitoba women, their families, and communities.

### **New Initiatives and Programs**

Just some of the exciting initiatives of the past year include:

- Completion and release of a ground-breaking study and report, "Listening to Their Voices: Women Prisoners and Access to Justice in Manitoba," made possible through a grant from the Canadian Bar Association and Law Commission of Canada and in collaboration with the University of Manitoba. The report, which is the first of its kind in Canada, documented the law that governs Manitoba prisoners and their legal rights, as well as the experience of women prisoners with those legal mechanisms.
- Commencement of an exciting new program to work with young Aboriginal women and girls. The initiative, Mino-Bimosewin/Me Tho Ta Mon ("Good Path"), which is funded by the federal Department of Justice, will employ the Four Doorways model of Aboriginal teachings to provide assistance, support and advocacy to Aboriginal female youth who are involved or who are at risk to be involved in gangs.

### **Thanks to Our Supporters and Funders**

The work EFS Manitoba would not be possible without the support of much-needed funding from both the federal and provincial government, community foundations, and individual donors. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all our funders and supporters, with special thanks to our sustaining funder, the United Way of Winnipeg, whose support continues to be truly outstanding.

I am very proud of the work that EFS Manitoba does to make our communities safer, healthier, more just and more inclusive. It has been my privilege to be a part of that work over the past six years. As I step down as President at this AGM, I do so with the knowledge that the organization is well positioned, with the support of a strong staff, board, volunteers, and community partners, to continue that important work. Thank you all for the honour of allowing me to work in solidarity with you.

Debra Parkes

President of the Board of Directors

## Executive Director's Report 2006-2007

Tansi (Welcome)

Wow! It's been a full year since the last Annual General Meeting. I would like to take this time to "Thank" all our funders, community partners and community individuals who continue to show their strong support and commitment to our agency. With the additional support we are able to provide the following programs and services:

The **Provincial Reintegration Coordinator** (Province of Manitoba – Justice) empowers women who have been incarcerated and marginalized to articulate their concerns and needs in a healthy way and to live successfully in the community through one-on-one counseling, pre-release planning and advocacy.

The **Housing Units (Emergency Housing)** (The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)) that continues to address homelessness within the population of criminalized Manitoba women by providing services in accessing to safe housing upon release from both provincial and federal correctional institutions. We are thrilled to have the Community Liaison Coordinator since November 2006 that assisted **(8) eight women** utilizing the units and had the opportunity to work with other women seeking affordable housing.

A **Stoplifting Program** (The United Way) explores the underlying reasons and causes why women and girls shoplift, commit fraud, breaches of trust or other similar offences. The program examines the issues affecting the women who commit such offences.

**Mino-Bimosewin (Ojibwa)/Me Tho Ta Mon (Cree) (Good Path)**. (Department of Justice) This **Gang Intervention** program is a new 2 (two) year project that provides assistance to Aboriginal young women and girls (12-17 years) who are involved or who are at risk to be involved in gang activities and to leave the gang lifestyle. An Aboriginal Spiritual Care Worker will ensure that Aboriginal young women and girls, as well as their families, have access to and develop a calendar of events, Ceremonies, use of Traditional Medicine, as well as referrals to Elders, Pipe Carriers and healers while in custody and in the community. Finally, an Aboriginal Community Health Nurse ensures that the health needs of the Aboriginal young women and girls are met.

The **Wonderful Me Program** (North End Community Renewal Corporation/United Way) is designed to address the needs of women who are in conflict or at risk of being in conflict with the law. This program addresses the issues of self-care, self-esteem and healthy communication skills.

The **building renovations** were completed and we are very grateful to the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, Inner City Renovations and Community Places for their outstanding contributions. We also want to thank the Thomas Sill Foundation for their grant to purchase a new HVAC system.

EFS Manitoba also provides on-going **advocacy** work for individuals and at a systemic level. For individual advocacy, our staff will contact lawyers for the women, advocate with housing and social assistance, and other government departments.

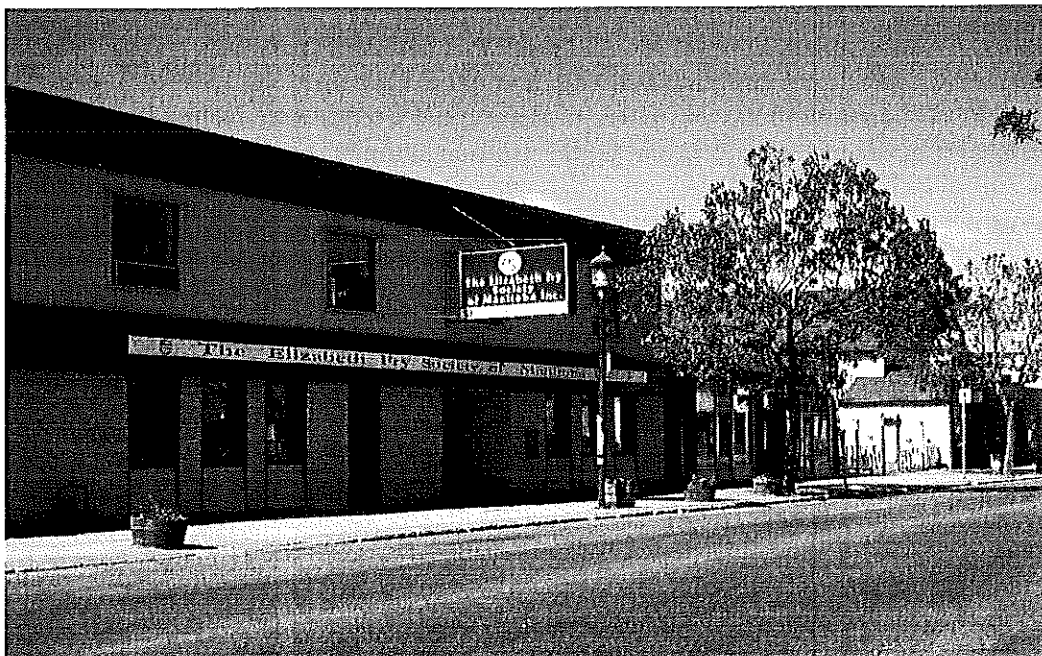
This past year, as the new Executive Director, the agency worked with the Board of Directors and the University of Manitoba in completing a study of **prisoners' rights** and access to justice mechanisms in Manitoba. We have also successfully completed our systemic advocacy in recent years. Five and a half years ago, EFS Manitoba filed two human rights complaints with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission about the treatment and conditions faced by women incarcerated at the Portage Correctional Centre (PCC), the only women's jail in Manitoba. Meegwetch (Thank you) to all the women who told their stories and experiences that changed the way we and institutions work.

Every one of you here can be part of addressing these issues, personally and professionally. Despite the best intentions of many who have worked to make it so, prisons are not and can not be treated as healing centers. Prisons continue to punish and hide "criminals" away from the rest of the community. The long term effects of incarceration are more than what society will ever understand. We need to continue our work to ensure that we are a strong voice for those who at times can not speak out for themselves.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say "Meegwetch" to the board of directors, staff, volunteers, student placements, summer students of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, who continue to show their commitment towards the women and girls we work with daily. We hope that your experience with our agency will provide a milestone to your continued work and the need to continue being strong voices for the women/girls we work with and in reducing the numbers involved in the criminal justice system.

Please check out our website for additional information at [www.efsmanitoba.org](http://www.efsmanitoba.org)

Margaret Marin Executive Director



Thank you! **Paradis and Dennis Visual Communications** for the donation of the new white sign "The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc" in front of our building.



**THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2007**

**THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.**

**INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2007**

Auditors' Report	
Balance Sheet	Statement 1
Statement of Revenues and Expenses	Statement 2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	Statement 3
Notes to Financial Statements	
Other Grants	Schedule 1

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board Members of  
**The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc.**

We have audited the balance sheet of **The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc.** as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of revenues and expenses and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the board. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization derives revenues from donations and fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to determine the completeness of the donations and fundraising activities referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, described in Note 2 of the financial statements.

*Thornton & Co.*

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
July 10, 2007

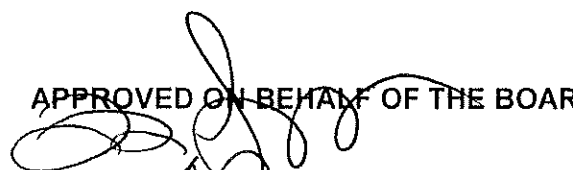
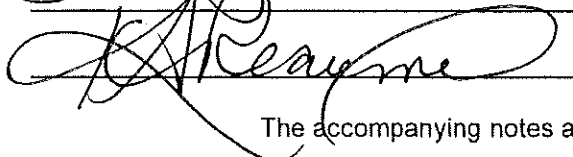
## THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at March 31, 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and short-term investments	\$40,101	\$2,853
Accounts receivable	31,276	58,644
Prepaid expenses	1,658	1,656
	<u>73,035</u>	<u>63,153</u>
<b>CAPITAL</b>		
Land, building, furniture and equipment	416,707	225,709
	<u>\$489,742</u>	<u>\$288,862</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	24,676	7,609
Deferred revenue	13,888	43,888
Current portion of long term debt	5,279	5,279
	<u>43,843</u>	<u>56,776</u>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT - (Note 5)</b>	41,510	44,117
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>404,389</u>	<u>187,969</u>
	<u>\$489,742</u>	<u>\$288,862</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director
   

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

*Thornton & Co.*

## THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the Year Ended March 31, 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
REVENUES		
Grants		
United Way of Winnipeg	\$170,000	\$106,266
Province of Manitoba		
- Justice	45,200	45,200
- Neighbourhoods Alive	4,500	0
- Manitoba Community Places	30,000	0
The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies	7,500	7,500
Winnipeg Foundation	29,930	10,520
Other grants – (Schedule 1)	13,698	12,379
National Homelessness Initiative	165,131	149,303
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	465,959	331,168
Contracts – CSC/Federal Reintegration	7,562	51,094
Donations and fund raising	5,815	8,949
Rent	2,408	2,247
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	481,744	393,458
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	169,456	159,657
Building and occupancy costs	213,736	171,586
General office administration	28,951	11,393
Meetings and public relations	4,219	3,181
Insurance and financial costs	5,797	6,335
The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies	5,846	699
Professional fees	2,882	0
Program services	23,809	1,402
Staff recruitment and training	1,484	1,227
Travel	2,749	3,642
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	458,929	359,122
EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$22,815</b>	<b>\$34,336</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

*Thornton & Co.*

## THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the Year Ended March 31, 2007

	Invested In Capital Assets	Unrestricted	2007 Net	2006 Net
Balance – beginning of year	\$173,925	\$14,044	\$187,969	\$3,192
Invested in capital assets	193,605	0	193,605	150,441
Excess revenues over expenses	0	22,815	22,815	34,336
Balance – end of year	<u>\$367,530</u>	<u>\$36,859</u>	<u>\$404,389</u>	<u>\$187,969</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

*Thornton & Co.*

# THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at March 31, 2007

### 1. PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc. is an Aboriginal non profit community agency aimed at reducing the number of women and girls involved in the criminal justice system.

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a). *Capital Assets*

The cost of capital expenditures has been expensed in the year of acquisition. These Capital expenditures are accounted for on the balance sheet with an offsetting entry to Invested in Capital Assets. The Society does not record amortization.

(b). *Income Taxes*

As a registered charitable organization, the Society is exempt from income taxes under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

(c). *Pledges*

The Society does not record pledges of contributions.

(d). *Donated goods and services*

In common with organizations of this nature, the Society is the recipient of volunteer labour, the value of which is not recognized for accounting purposes.

Goods and Services that are normally purchased by the Society, but which are donated, the fair market value of such goods and services is recorded in the accounts. No such donations were received in 2007 or 2006.

### 3. GRANTS

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies receives grant funding from the office of the Solicitor General of Canada for distribution to the local societies. Of the 2006 – 2007 grant \$7,500 was allocated to The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc.

THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF MANITOBA INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at March 31, 2007

4. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Society is economically dependent on the United Way of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba for grants to fund operations.

5. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
North Winnipeg Credit Union Limited Monthly payments of \$439.92 including interest at 5.05% per annum. Secured by property at 544 Selkirk Avenue	\$46,789	\$49,396
Less: current portion	<u>5,279</u>	<u>5,279</u>
	<u>\$41,510</u>	<u>\$44,117</u>

6. PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE

Based on our audit, no employees, officers or board members received aggregate compensation in excess of \$50,000.



# *Heartfelt Thanks to.....*

## *Our Funders*

United Way of Winnipeg  
Province of Manitoba - Justice  
Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative  
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies - CAEFS  
Correctional Services of Canada  
Winnipeg Foundation  
Neighborhoods Alive!  
Community Places  
Thomas Sills Foundation - Gifts in Kind Program  
Jewish Foundation  
Manitoba Government All Charities Campaign  
Human Resources Development Canada-Summer Career Placement Program  
Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development  
Human Rights Commission  
Law Commission of Canada  
Canadian Bar Association

## *Agency Placements and Partners*

Crossing Communities Art Project  
Books for Prisoners' Project  
Native Women's Resource Centre  
Inner City Renovations  
Urban Circle  
University of Manitoba - Social Work  
Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape  
North End Women's Resource Centre  
Opportunities for Employment  
MGEU  
Seed Winnipeg Inc.  
North End Community Renewal Corp.  
Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development  
Path Resource Centre  
Sage House  
Partners for Careers

## *Board of Directors 2006-2007*

Debra Parkes	President
Tracy Booth	Vice President
*Sarah Inness	Secretary
Rachel Charette	Secretary
Angie Bruce	Treasurer (on Leave)
Kelly Reaume	Treasurer
Mary Guilbault	Director
*Nancy Fazenda	Director
*Allison Graham Myers	Director
Denise Pelland	Director
Brenda Syrenne	Director
Louisa Catherine "Chickadee" Richard	Director
Christina Cook	Director

\*Resigned. A very special "Thank You" to these Board Members who served the agency over the past year(s).

## *Staff 2006-2007*

Margaret Marin	Executive Director
Adele Breese	Office Manager
Marcie Tavares	Provincial Reintegration Worker
Lisa Marie Champagne	Community Liaison Coordinator

*And special Thanks to the following staff members who have moved on to other pursuits:  
Darlene Johnson, Cindy Brass, Janet Johnstone, Rachel Charette, Selina Vincent, Ella Clark, Catherine Hayes, Anna Mae Munnik, Kathy Bent and Lisa Marie Champagne*

*THANK YOU*

*TO ALL OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND FUNDERS  
TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND AGENCIES  
FOR ALL THE DONATIONS OF CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS  
TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR SUCCESS*

## **Provincial Reintegration – Marcie Tavares**

The role of the Provincial Reintegration Coordinator is to provide in-person support, counselling, pre-release, follow-up services and advocacy to remanded and sentenced women incarcerated at the Winnipeg Remand Center and Portage Correctional Center. Women can access me through the toll free 1-800 telephone line for these services. Women coming in the community from incarceration have priority in community counselling and support services. Empowering the women through our services helps them begin their healing journey. However, women in conflict with the law can access this service even though they have not currently come out of an institution.

**Winnipeg Remand Center:** This year I have been attending WRC twice a month, I provided individual counselling and pre release planning with the women.

### **Portage Correctional Center:**

I attend PCC the first and third Tuesday of the month; I am able to meet the women and work together with their pre release plans. This gives the opportunity for the women to establish a comfort with me for when they are released they are able to come into the office with ease. Women who are released from PCC have the option of working with me. I assist the women with a release package of toiletries and other basic items, access to our clothing depot, and support their initial contacts with their children and community agencies. Most importantly, I attempt to assist women with becoming connected with positive social networks and help them develop positive personal resources. I advocate on their behalf with Employment and Income Assistance, probation officers and lawyers

## **Provincial Data for April 2006 – March 2007**

Weekly community contacts: 320

Phone Sessions: 275

Phone Request: 203

Office Sessions: 210

Winnipeg Remand Center

Weekly Contact: 244

Phone sessions: 125

Institutional Requests: 125

Portage Correctional Center:

Weekly Contact: 480

Phone Sessions: 310

Institutional Requests: 456

I first became involved with The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba in May of 2007, through my Applied Counselling Program practicum placement at Red River College. My practicum was an amazing learning experience and I had the opportunity to practice my skills that I had learned during my courses. I find it frustrating to see the way society treats women who are impoverished and involved with the criminal justice system. It was a great experience to be involved in an organization that works to address the underlying societal issues that women face everyday.

After I finished my program in July, I was hired as the Community Liaison Coordinator. I am still new to the position, but I am excited to take on the new challenges of working for an organization that is passionate about women's rights and advocacy.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba offers two on-site suites for women involved in the criminal justice system, who require emergency transitional housing once they are released from incarceration. During the time that the women spend in our transitional units, we assist them in finding their own secure and stable housing, as well as help them to gain supports, programming and recovery.

*Allison McKinnon  
Community Liaison Coordinator*



# The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba



A United Way Member Agency

## NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

spring/summer 2007

Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba (EFS) is a non-profit, community-based agency that, according to its mandate, *"actively seeks to reduce the involvement of women and girls involved in the criminal justice system"* by providing a variety of programs, services, and advocacy support to women who have been in conflict with the law.

### NATIONAL ELIZABETH FRY WEEK

May 7 to 13, 2007

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) celebrates National Elizabeth Fry Week annually. Elizabeth Fry Societies across the country organize public events in their communities throughout the week. Our goal

is to enhance public awareness and education regarding the circumstances of victimized and criminalized women involved in the criminal justice system.

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*"To all the Board Members who had to leave us! A huge "thank you" for your support and commitment"*

We hope to gradually break down the negative stereotypes that exist about women who are imprisoned and institutionalized. National Elizabeth Fry Week is always the week preceding Mother's Day. The majority of women who are criminalized and imprisoned are mothers. Most of them were the sole supporters of their families at the time they were incarcerated. When mothers are sentenced to prison, their children are sentenced to separation.

We try to draw attention to this reality by ending Elizabeth Fry Week on Mother's Day each year. By focusing on "Meeting Women's Needs in the Community and Alternatives to Institutionalization", our 25 member societies

encourage Canadians to examine some productive and responsible means of encouraging community responses to addressing criminal justice matters from coast to coast. Our hope is that, particularly in this time of fiscal restraint, this sort of proactive focus will encourage the development of and support for community-based alternatives to costly incarceration. CAEFS challenges Canadians to reach behind the walls and bring women into our communities, so that they may take responsibility and account for their actions in ways that make sense to them and to us.

*EFS Manitoba hosted the Prairie Regional Meeting of the CAEFS network in March 2007. Visiting women at the Portage Correctional Centre and Winnipeg Remand Centre*



## Housing Units

A huge thank you goes to the **Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)** for funding through 2007 for our Community Liaison Coordinator who will address homelessness within the population of criminalized women upon release from both provincial and federal correctional institutions. This vital position assists women to secure stable housing and support, programming for healing recovery and reintegration. We are seeking long-term funding for this position and to support the costs of operating the two suites for short-term transitional housing.

Since December 2006 we have had (12) twelve women in the suites.



**Program News** The **Winnipeg Jewish Foundation** provided funding for our Stop lifting program and we received funding from **The Winnipeg Foundation** towards the development of our agency's database to better understand and address the needs of the women with whom we work. **Manitoba Justice** has provided financial support to provide a women's literacy program at the Portage Correctional Centre. We have also received two years of **Department of Justice**

**Canada** funding for our Aboriginal Female Gang Intervention project that will assist Aboriginal youth who are involved or at risk to be involved in gang activities and to leave the gang lifestyle, using the Four Doorways model of providing service.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba have completed a study of **prisoners' rights** and access to justice mechanisms in Manitoba. We will send the final report out to the CAEFS network and community partners once completed later this Spring. Meegwetch (Thank you) to all the women who told their stories and experiences to make this study a success. Also, thank you to the Law Commission of Canada and Canadian Bar Association for funding this important initiative.

*"We weren't born criminals; the impact of poverty, abuse, racism, inequality, self-esteem, conditioning, and social structure should be considered when looking at crime and deviance."  
- Charlotte Lajimodiere*

### EFS Manitoba Staff

*Margaret Marin, Executive Director  
Adele Breese, Office Manager  
Marcie Tavares, Provincial Reintegration Worker  
Christine Harper, Community Liaison Coordinator*

### Human Rights in Action Training – April 28 – May 2, 2007

We would like to thank the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and Strength in Sisterhood (SIS) who, with the support of Status of Women Canada, provided basic information about how the law applies to women in prison. EFS Manitoba staff and board members had the opportunity to be a part of the training together with the women at the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge and Edmonton Institution for Women. The Human Rights in Action trains women prisoners to be peer advocates both during and after their period of incarceration, while also training community service providers to provide a continuum of advocacy for reintegration. The "Human Rights in Action Training Manual" was provided to all women to explain their rights while in prison and on conditional release. Special acknowledgment goes to our staff *Adele Breese*, who was a speaker at the Human Rights in Action Training. "Awesome Work"

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