



THE FUNERAL BOARD OF MANITOBA

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Please note that newsletters are sent via email only but are also available on our website at www.gov.mb.ca/funeraldirectorsboard/index.html.

2013 Licences

The majority of funeral director/embalmer and premises licences were renewed on time this year. However if you have not yet submitted **all** required documents and fees, including proof of your 2012 Continuing Education credits, the \$250 late fee applies and should be submitted.

Funeral Director/Embalmer Certificate Program

Red River College and the Funeral Board of Manitoba initially planned to launch the program in January 2013 however attendees at the November orientation made some excellent suggestions. As a result, the College and the Board have decided to delay the launch until April 8, 2013 which will allow for improvements to be made to the program.

These improvements include; splitting the program into two certificates, the students can take either the Funeral Director Program or the Funeral Director/Embalmer program. Changes to the practicum portion of the programs are being considered but best of all, the cost of the initial course has been reduced. The Board appreciates your patience during this transition.

Education Committee

In keeping with recent amendments to the Act, the Board is establishing an Education Committee. This committee will review and consider all courses for continuing education credits. Once completed, a list of the approved courses will be posted on the Board's website and will be updated as needed.

The Board invited the Manitoba Funeral Services Association and Red River College to participate on the committee, and both have agreed.

The Board recognizes that not all funeral directors/embalmers are members of the association, and is seeking licensees who are not affiliated with the MFSA to work on this committee. If you are interested, please send us a resume and letter outlining how you would provide positive contributions to this committee.

The Board may select one or two candidates from all interested parties and will notify the successful person(s) individually.

Complaints

In 2012, the Funeral Board of Manitoba received 32 complaints; 29 have been resolved but 3 others are still under

investigation. We thank all licencees for their cooperation with these investigations.

Continuing Education

Section 8.2 of *The Funeral Directors and Embalmers Act* regulation states that it is **the responsibility of the participant** to submit proof of completed Continuing Education credits. The confirmation of credits must contain;

- the name of the service provider,
- the name of the course,
- the name of the instructor,
- the date the course was attended, and
- the amount of credit hours allocated.

The funeral director/embalmer must get written confirmation from the provider and submit in the providers chosen format. The Board will not accept confirmation submitted in any other format.

Funeral directors/embalmers are asked to provide proof of completed Continuing Education credits before October 15th annually. However, the Board will accept this proof anytime before that date via email, fax or mail.

NOTE: It is not the course provider's responsibility to advise the Board of successful completion of courses.

Without proof of continuing education, the Board cannot process your renewal and a late fee of \$250 may apply.

The Prearranged Funeral Services Act regulation and The Cemeteries Act

As you may be aware, the Funeral Board of Manitoba **cannot** change statutes and regulations by itself. Amendments go through an extensive development, review and approval process, by many levels and agencies of government, before proclamation. Input from interested parties is also important.

In 2010, the Public Utilities Board held meetings and delivered recommendations for changes to *The Funeral Directors and Embalmers Act*, *The Cemeteries Act* and *The Prearranged Funeral Services Act*. As a result, some changes to the acts were made. In 2012, the Board solicited suggestions from the public and funeral directors regarding possible changes to *The Prearranged Funeral Services Act* regulation. Many funeral directors and embalmers provided valuable perspectives.

Since then, the Board has had extensive discussions regarding the findings, and consultations with legislative drafters regarding changes to the regulation. This process is still ongoing.

The Board regards both the Association and the profession as important partners in any changes. The Board will be consulting further with you before the draft regulation starts its journey through the government approval process.

Finally, in 2013, the Board will develop a plan to consult with interested parties on *The Cemeteries Act*.

For more information regarding current events please visit our website at

www.funeraldirectorsboard.mb.ca.

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