



THE FUNERAL BOARD OF MANITOBA

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

Farewell to Chair

For those of you who have not yet seen notification under the **Board Activities** section of our website, we would like to send out formal notification that Susan Boulter, Chair of the Funeral Board, has retired as of August 1, 2014.

We appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to the Board and thank her for her time and effort.

During this time of transition the Board's Vice-Chair, Darin Hoffman, is Acting Chair until the Minister appoints a new Chair.

The Board is coming to you!

The Funeral Board of Manitoba will be holding three open forum evening meetings before the end of the year.

The Board wants to open communication, provide transparency and work with the profession to ensure that all licensees are being heard.

Additional information and agendas will be sent prior to the meetings which are scheduled to be held in Flin Flon, Virden and Winnipeg.

All information will be sent electronically so please ensure the Board has your current, personal email address.

Red River College

Randy Locke, representative of Red River College made a presentation to the Funeral Board of Manitoba and the Manitoba Funeral Services Association at their joint meeting on September 19, 2014.

Mr. Locke will provide the Board with a copy of his presentation which will be posted on the Board's website. We have also added a link to Red River College's Funeral Director Certificate Program.

Should you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Red River College directly at 204-694-1789, 1-866-242-7073 (toll-free), or via email to cde@rrc.ca.

The Cemeteries Act – Proposed Tariffs

The Board is working to review all current projects and tariff changes in a timely manner.

We currently request 90 days to provide approvals. This gives us time to review the requests and applications to ensure that all requirements have been met.

Please review the letter that was sent to the profession on September 24th for more information and details as to the requirements for review.

The Prearranged Funeral Services Act Regulation

A consultation paper is being drafted for the profession's review. Once ready, the Board will send the consultation document electronically to every licensee so please ensure we have your current, personal email address.

REMINDER - Records to be kept

A few complaints have been received that require a review of the decedent's file but it has been found that either no file was created or it has been destroyed.

Please review section 12(1) of the regulation that outlines the information that **must** be kept in your files for the current year and the previous five years.

Please protect yourselves by creating and preserving all files related to any service(s) you provide, whether contracted for a licensee or requested by a customer.

Destroying files is considered a breach of the regulation. It can and has been grounds for a hearing.

Good Practice – Embalming

The Board's Inspector, John Delaney has investigated some complaints received involving embalming practices.

Please remember that complaints can be made up to five years after a service or incident occurred. The Board urges all embalmers to complete an embalming report for each embalming performed, and retain them on file.

For more information regarding current events please visit our website at

www.funeraldirectorsboard.mb.ca

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