



# Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

## Services à l'enfant et à la famille de l'ouest du Manitoba

October 13, 2016

Minister of Finance  
Room 103, 450 Broadway  
Manitoba Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

**ATTN: Morgan Shipley - Outreach Coordinator**

Dear Ms. Shipley

Thank you for the invitation to present and participate on October 20 in Brandon as you do your pre-budget consultations. The Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, a facility of Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba has operated in this community for over 32 years. We are funded by public, private, community, and corporations who support our mission to do early intervention and prevention work with families. Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba has operated as a private, community based, nonprofit organization led by a volunteer community represented Board of Directors since 1899. Our agency's vision and mission reflects our values that child welfare is defined in a broad way and we must understand that the child protection mandate includes prevention as reflected in the legislation.

The Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre offers many different programs and services to strengthen families. Our agency, through the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, works to keep children safe and out of care. Our various parent education classes, support groups, and family literacy programs are universally accessible to the entire community. We see 25,000 visits to the Centre annually. We served approximately 900 different families annually. Our families are reflective of the population in this community. Many have never been on a child protection caseload and have no known risk factors. Some are actively involved with child protection services. Some of our families have their children in foster care and are working toward reunification. The Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre helps all of these families to ensure better outcomes of their children.

Our agency and, more specifically, our Family Resource Centre operates in a fiscally responsible, efficient and effective manner. Our programs are evidence based and clearly demonstrate efficacy. Our agency statistics are very strong when compared with provincial and national statistics. We would assert that our long standing commitment to prevention and early intervention is a contributing factor to our positive measurable outcomes.

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*Child and Family Services of  
Western Manitoba exists so that  
children are safe and nurtured  
in strong, loving families within  
a community of caring people.*



Continued support from all of our funders is crucial to supporting our capacity to strengthen families. There is a large body of research showing that it is financially wise to invest in prevention as the cost of later crisis interventions is much higher. Prevention work in early childhood development and parent child attachment not only proves fruitful for better child welfare outcomes, but also for areas such as education, justice, health, and employment. The trajectory for children's wellbeing is set in the early years and our investment at this stage of life will ultimately save our province money in the short and long term.

Our Centre is devoted to working with this government to ensure we are leaving a responsible legacy to Manitoba families.

Sincerely



Lisa Ramsay  
Social Worker  
Coordinator  
Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre  
Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba

LR/pd