

DECEMBER 2007 STATUS REPORT

Child and Family Services Standing Committee Status Report On Changes for Children

Background

In March 2006, the Minister of Family Services and Housing commissioned two external reviews into the child and family services (CFS) system in Manitoba as a result of a tragic child death. An internal Section IV report was also completed. These reviews are: *Strengthening The Commitment – An External Review of the Child Welfare System* (Office of the Ombudsman, September 2006), *Honouring Their Spirits – The Child Death Review: A report to the Minister of Family Services and Housing* (Manitoba Children's Advocate, September 2006) and *Recommendations – A Special Case Review in Regard to the Death of Phoenix Sinclair* (Koster, Schibler, & Manitoba Children's Advocate, September 2006).

In response to these reports, the Leadership Council announced a package of new strategic initiatives entitled *Changes for Children: Strengthening the Commitment to Child Welfare* accompanied by a commitment of an initial allocation of over \$42 million to begin implementation of these recommendations. An additional \$6.1 million was committed to strengthen Manitoba's foster care system.

The plan included the creation of an interim structure called the Implementation Team (IT), comprised of two external co-chairs, Dr. Catherine Cook and Mr. Reg Toews, the Chief Executive Officers of the four Child and Family Services Authorities, the Acting Executive Director of the Child Protection Branch and the Acting Director of the Strategic Initiatives and Support to oversee the implementation of the Changes for Children recommendations. Additionally, an Implementation Staff Team (IST), comprised of representation from the four CFS Authorities and the Child Protection Branch was formed to support the work of the IT.

The IT was also asked to oversee many of the recommendations from two additional reviews of the CFS system, released in the fall of 2006. The first of these reviews was undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General and examined the policies and procedures that were in place in the CFS division prior to devolution. The second review, *Strengthening Our Youth – Their Journey to Competence and Independence* (McEwan-Morris & Manitoba Children's Advocate, November 2006) focused on the services and supports provided to youth who leave the child welfare system at age 18.

In total, the IT was tasked with reviewing and planning for the implementation of the 289 separate recommendations to improve the child and family service system. To facilitate and guide this work, the Implementation Team developed a vision statement and a set of 12 principles that guide the development of all of the *Changes for Children* initiatives. At a minimum, the IT determined that all plans must be consistent with the following two foundational principles:

- The *Changes for Children* work plan will demonstrate respect for the spirit, intent and longer term objectives of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative; and
- The work plan will clearly demonstrate how the capacity of the child and family service system will be strengthened and ensure that vulnerable children, youth, families and communities who require, or are likely to require service, are the primary beneficiaries.

Standing Committee

Since the August 2007 progress report, as a result of the progress made to date, the responsibility for the work related to *Changes for Children* has now shifted to Standing Committee. Standing Committee meets bi-weekly to develop and review plans and to make decisions designed to move all initiatives, including those with respect to *Changes for Children* forward. Minutes from each meeting are kept and approved by the full Committee. The work of Standing Committee is focused on three main areas:

- Implementing *Changes for Children* initiatives
- Continuing the implementation of the AJI-CWI
- Ongoing system development

Changes for Children

Standing Committee is building on the work completed by IT (i.e., the completion of the categorization, by common work theme; of all of the 289 recommendations into 20 distinct work projects within the Consolidated Work Plan). Many of these work projects have related sub-projects. A listing of the work projects is available in the August Progress report.

Standing Committee is actively working on a number of initiatives and activities designed to move forward on changes to the child and family service system. The following is an update on many of those projects.

Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS)

• Incremental Improvements

- Suggestions for incremental improvements to the CFS Applications (CFSIS and the Intake Module) were collected from a range of staff that uses the applications, including front-line workers and supervisors. A number of tactical improvement projects were prioritized and agreed on using a process that considered the impact of each suggested improvement on increasing child safety, reducing workload, improving ease of use and improving access to information.

The number of prioritized projects that are able to be completed is dependent on the scope of each work project. Work began on the incremental enhancements in July 2007. The improvements will occur in phases as follows.

- The first phase of improvements was introduced in September, 2007. This included:
 - Repairs to ensure that Prior Contact Check (PCC) in the Intake Module (IM) and CFSIS produce the same results, and
 - The introduction of a new feature in the Prior Contact Check to ensure accurate results are properly displayed and to reduce/eliminate duplicate records.
 - The following improvements are scheduled for introduction in the last quarter of 2007/2008:
 - Province-wide access to all CFSIS cases by designated roles or positions,
 - Province-wide access to all intakes on the IM for designated workers,
 - Reduced navigation to case recordings to a single click solution,
 - New security level – restricted access,
 - Advanced notice of expiring foster home licenses.
 - Recording of medical information for children in care,
 - The creation of a ‘flag’ to identify children in care with high risk medical needs, and
 - Automatic transfer of household information from IM to CFSIS.
 - Progress continues to be made in solving current connectivity problems experienced by some agency offices when trying to utilize Child and Family Services Applications (CFSA, see below).
 - Authorities are continuing the process of entering all open cases (Federal and Provincial) into CFSIS.
- ### **• Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS)/Applications (CFSA) Renewal**
- The Child and Family Services Applications (CFSA) strategic “renewal” project is a long term (2 to 5 years) effort to rebuild or replace the Child and Family Service Information System with a new system that is

- consistent with case management practices and differential response in Child and Family Service Agencies. In addition, it will provide new features that are important to the Authorities, Agencies and Department such as customized assessments and automated billing.
- A Request for Proposals was approved and released in June 2007. Vendor proposals were presented in late August 2007. Standing Committee endorsed the leading vendor candidate (IBM) on November 6, 2007. Contract negotiations with the vendor were initiated; with first phase start-up anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2007/08 with an expected duration of 6 months.
 - The first phase is expected to confirm the priorities of a rebuilt/replacement system; map current work processes; identify systems currently available in the marketplace that could be purchased (if any), make a recommendation about the most cost-effective path to a modern case management system, i.e., rebuild, build new, or buy from the marketplace, and describe the scope of future work to get the recommended system in place.
 - Standing Committee has created a staff team consisting of subject matter experts to work with IBM to provide advice on the project.

Differential Response (DR) Model

• Phases I and II

- Each Authority has completed the first phase of a plan to educate and promote a Differential Response (DR) model. Representatives from each of the Authority Agencies have been involved in presentations and interactive workshops. Community collaterals have also expressed interest in a DR model and a number of educational and promotional presentations have been delivered to collaterals.
- Resources have been made available to each Authority to hire contractors to assist them in completing Phase II of the DR roll-out, which will result in plans to, implement and evaluate DR in each Authority.
- Standing Committee reviewed the Authority DR submissions in November 2007. The Authority submissions outlined their plans to prepare the groundwork for the introduction of DR and to implement pilots to test various DR elements (e.g. assessment tools, specific interventions, etc.) and DR in different service environments (e.g., rural/urban and designated intake/on-going service agencies).
- The plans identify the preparation and developmental steps needed to establish DR within each Authority as well as the demonstration components that will be tested and evaluated as part of pilots.
- The submissions also allowed Standing Committee to begin the process of identifying the core elements of DR in Manitoba, which will facilitate the

development of a DR conceptual framework as well as foundational DR standards.

- Based on their review of the submissions, Standing Committee identified an approach to moving forward beginning in the last quarter of 2007/2008 and continuing into the next fiscal year. The approach requires Treasury Board approval before proceeding.
- Research on best practice differential response models continues. As part of the DR plan development process, the Authorities and their respective contractors are working jointly in completing a literature and inter-jurisdictional review on assessment processes and tools in a DR context. The research will be used to create a set of recommendations regarding the suitability of specific processes and tools to facilitate implementation of Manitoba's DR capacity. This Team took into consideration the Family Services and Housing Integrated Service Delivery research on assessment in a DR context as part of their effort. This work is expected to be completed early in 2008.
- A number of Manitoba delegates from the child and family service system attended the International conference on DR in Long Beach, California in November 2007. The information gathered is being collected by the Staff Team to serve as a resource for ongoing development of DR. A site visit to Alberta by Standing Committee to discuss Alberta's DR model and the lessons learned when introducing the model in their province and in First Nations and Metis communities is anticipated as soon as arrangements can be made.

Developing Standards, Protocols or Directives

- **Standards Development Protocol**

- A protocol to guide the revision to or the development of new foundational standards was developed. Standing Committee agreed on a resolution approving the Protocol on November 7, 2007. A key element of the Protocol is that there must be consultation with staff prior to standards being approved.

- **Standards Development**

- Consistent with the Protocol, Standing Committee has identified a number of standards that need to be addressed. This includes standards that have been approved but not yet distributed, standards that have been revised but not yet approved, and standards remaining to be updated and approved. Resources have been committed in order for each Authority to carry out the necessary consultation with staff. Based on the consultation results, the contracted staff will jointly finalize and recommend a number of draft standards and submit them to Standing Committee for approval as recommendations to be made to the Child Protection Branch. Once approved, this work will be incorporated into the Child and Family Services

Standards Manual. These standards will be in addition to the existing standards (e.g., case management, etc.) already in place and available on the internet. This portion of the Standards work is underway.

Enhanced Communication

- **Conferences/Symposia**

- Two, one-day conferences titled, *Child and Family Services in Manitoba, Trends and Challenges*, were held in The Pas (November 27) and in Winnipeg (November 29). The conferences received 475 registrations from child and family services agencies, collateral service providers and others. These conferences explored the trends, challenges and future of child and family services in Manitoba. Through expert presenters, the conferences provided an opportunity for child and family services staff and key stakeholders to learn about child and family services, reconciliation, the media and the political system.
- A conference called “Achieving Better Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families,” whose focus will be on DR, is planned for later in 2008. The timing will allow for a broader promotion of DR with staff and intersectoral partners in the context of the experience of the pilots and other completed work with respect to the development of a made-in-Manitoba DR framework. The conference will provide information on planning, implementation and evaluation of DR models and the pilots, with opportunities for participants to attend interactive workshops to discuss the potential for DR in Manitoba.

- **Communications Sub-Committee**

- The Communications Sub-Committee, comprised of representatives from the four CFS Authorities and the Strategic Initiatives and Program Support Branch, continues to ensure that ongoing communication is delivered in a timely and clear fashion to a wide audience. The Sub-committee’s approved charter guides its work. The purpose of the charter is to have each of the partners represented in a forum in which they can collaborate and provide advice on common communications items.
- A central task of this sub-committee is to develop ongoing staff updates that are disseminated to all child and family services staff. The first staff update will be distributed early in 2008.
- Work to date has included input into a communications strategy; the co-development of a variety of communication items including assisting in the creation and distribution of the Standing Committee’s *Changes for Children* Progress Report issued on October 10, 2007 and the provision of information about common interests relating to the AJI-CWI, Changes for Children, and other initiatives to a variety of audiences and forums.

- **Staff and Youth Engagement**

- The four Authorities signed a resolution in the summer 2007 which commits to the establishment of Staff and Youth Engagement structures within each Authority to enhance communication. This initiative will provide an ongoing opportunity for youth and CFS staff at all levels to receive information and to provide feedback on proposed CFS system initiatives.

- **MGEU Committees**

- In August 2007, the Terms of Reference were approved to establish two Child Welfare Staff Representative Consultation Committees. One Committee is co-chaired by an MGEU representative and the A/CEO of the General Authority, and the second Committee is co-chaired by an MGEU representative and the CEO of the Southern First Nations Authority. The Committees have been established to enhance communication between management, front-line staff and the union by providing opportunities to share information on the development of the Changes for Children and other CFS initiatives.

Intersectoral Partnerships

- **Interim Child Welfare Intersectoral Committee (CWIC)**

- The Intersectoral Partnerships Project and its related design teams were prioritized by IT. To this end, the IT established an Interim CWIC comprised of representatives from each partner. The Interim CWIC held its first meeting on September 7, 2007, and has met on a regular basis.
- The primary purpose of the Interim CWIC is to identify and involve key intersectoral partners who have expertise related to the mental health, addictions, suicide, children with complex medical needs, and healthy child development intersectoral recommendations made in the external reviews, in the development of detailed work plans through the design team process. The Committee will continue to be in place until a permanent Intersectoral Committee is established.
- The Interim CWIC is to provide a list of recommended members for the design teams to Standing Committee for review and approval.

- **Suicide prevention**

- A number of meetings were held with the Department of Health to discuss how the *Changes for Children* Suicide Prevention work can intersect with and complement the Provincial Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- A significant portion of the newly established Interim Child Welfare Intersectoral Committee's work (see 'Interim CWIC above) will be to plan for, and implement the recommendations related to intersectoral issues, including suicide prevention, through consultation with system experts, and the coordination of the development of a detailed work plan. This

intersectoral initiative was prioritized for action and commenced in September 2007.

- The Joint Training Unit created and rolled out suicide prevention training. The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Safe Talk training was and is being provided to agency staff and foster parents.

- **FASD Initiatives**

- In spring 2007 the Province, in collaboration with *Changes for Children*, announced a commitment to enhance Manitoba's Coordinated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Strategy. As part of this framework, planning continued for a number of FASD initiatives focused on enhancing and developing specific initiatives for children and families involved in the child and family services system. These initiatives include the establishment of two FASD Design and Work Plan Development Teams and a new resource centre as follows:
 - The purpose of the first team is to consult broadly with FASD experts throughout the province and in other jurisdictions, develop draft service standards using the guidelines outlined in the Standards Development Protocol based on best practice model(s) and identify outcomes and the resources required to implement the standards. Initial consultation and research is being completed by an independent contractor agreed upon by Standing Committee. The work related to development, implementation and evaluation of service standards will be completed by Authority FASD Specialists who will be in place by early 2008. The roles of the FASD Specialists include facilitating the development and piloting of standards, consulting with their respective Authority agencies on FASD programming and services, coordinating their efforts with the Provincial Coordinated FASD Strategy, and liaising with the Joint Training Unit regarding FASD training needs. The Authorities posted for these positions in December 2007. A hiring process for each Authority is underway.
 - The purpose of the second team will be to develop work plans regarding the balance of the Provincial Coordinated FASD Strategy including the expansion of the successful Stop FASD program to three rural and/or northern communities and increased research to guide the development of new policies and programs. Provincial government department names have been identified and names from the Authorities and/or others are in the process of being identified.
 - A new resource centre called "Spectrum Connections" will be established to assist youth with FASD who are transitioning out of the foster care system and young adults in supported or independent living. In collaboration with Family Services and Housing's Disability Programs, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in September 2007. An intersectoral selection committee was established (co-chaired by a Standing Committee representative) and completed the

selection process. The Committee provided their recommendation to Standing Committee for review and approval. Standing Committee approved the recommended vendor by joint resolution on November 21, 2007. Contract discussions and planning is in process in order for the new service to be put in place prior to the end of the 2007/08 fiscal year.

- **Other intersectoral**

- Two members of the Staff Team continue to sit on the Family Services and Housing (FSH) Integrated Service Advisory Group (ISAG) which provides advice and guidance to the Family Services and Housing Integrated Services Team (IST). The Integrated Services Team is responsible for the development and piloting of an integrated front-end and comprehensive assessment approach to service delivery based on a differential response model of service.
- Following a meeting with the Staff Team, the Family Services and Housing Integrated Services Team extended an invitation to meet with individual Authorities to discuss their research and the results of their recent pilot experience as it relates to the work being undertaken by the Authorities regarding differential response (DR). These meetings helped inform the Authorities' submissions for DR.

Strengthening Foster Care

- **Foster Care Strategy**

- The three teams formed to strengthen the foster care system focused much of their attention on the elimination of the use of hotels as a placement option, except in exceptional circumstances. By July 31, 2007, the Authorities and their foster care teams were able to report that alternative placements had been located for all children and there were no children placed in hotels. A standard was agreed to and issued regarding the conditions under which a hotel placement would be permitted. Since that time there has been limited numbers of hotel placements all consistent with the exceptions in the hotel placement standard.
- Planning to develop additional short- and long-term resources to sustain this accomplishment continued. By October 2007, over 500 new bed spaces for children had been developed. As of November 30, 2007 the Resource Development Team had assisted in the development of 28 new resource beds.
- The Foster Care 'Circle of Care' recruitment line continued to receive inquiries from prospective foster parents. As of November 30, 2007, the 'Join the Circle of Care' Foster Care Recruitment line (1-888-985-JOIN) had received 1,538 calls. Information packages were provided and callers were referred to agencies for information about orientation sessions. Orientation sessions have been held throughout the province.

- On October 2, 2007, 14 Child and Family Service Agencies, representing all Authorities, hosted 77 prospective foster parents at a Recruitment Symposium in Winnipeg. Future Foster Care Recruitment Symposia are planned for Winnipeg and northern Manitoba.
- An increase in basic maintenance rates of 10% is being implemented on January 1, 2008.
- **Special Rate**
 - A project proposal was developed by Standing Committee to identify standardized processes and approaches to the setting of special rates. A project charter was developed. Any new processes and approaches will be linked to the larger funding model work being undertaken.
 - A survey of current agency practices in place for setting special rates to determine the variants between agencies was completed by the Authorities. Standing Committee held a working session in December 2007 to discuss the survey results. Based on this work, Standing Committee began work on a concept paper for the redesign of special rate determination and funding processes.
- **Foster Parent Training**
 - A Foster Parent Training Curricula Design Team was established during this reporting period to develop a Competency Based Training Manual for foster parents. Membership consists of representatives from the Authorities, the Manitoba Foster Family Network (MFFN), and the JTU some of whom are also foster parents. The Authorities continued to deliver training to foster parents during this period including first aid/CPR.
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Strengthening Youth

- **Youth Transitioning Out of Care**
 - Standing Committee continues to work through the details of introducing two new initiatives: *Vision Catchers* and *Youth Mentoring*. Protocols and guidelines are in the process of being developed in order for agencies to access funding for these initiatives.
 - The *Vision Catcher Fund* will provide youth with financial support for secondary education, apprentice programs and the development of special talents and a *Mentorship Program* will provide an opportunity for youth leaving care to be mentored by other youth who have successfully aged out of the child and family service system. See also page 9, 'Enhanced Communication' above.

Training, Workshops, and New Information

• Enhancements to Training

- The distribution of best practice information on water safety, including brochures and pamphlets from the Lifesaving Society of Manitoba, Canadian Red Cross, Safe Kids Canada, and “Swim to Survive” training, to foster parents and care providers was initiated in June 2007. The Joint Training Unit (JTU) is now considering how best to offer water safety training that will highlight and expand upon the information provided.
- The JTU Coordinators contracted with facilitators to provide Critical Incident Stress Management training to child and family services staff throughout the province. The JTU and the Authorities/agencies worked with the facilitators to make the training more relevant to child and family services staff.
- A Training Working Group (TWG), consisting of members of the JTU and the Staff Team, meets regularly to review plans and priorities related to training recommendations. The Staff Team role on the TWG is to provide support, guidance and advice to JTU to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities. \$1.5 million in spending has been authorized in 2007/08.
- The JTU is currently working on several joint training initiatives with the intention of making these available in the 2008/09 fiscal year. These include:
 - Orientation to Child and Family Services in Manitoba
 - Supervisory Training
 - PHIA/FIPPA Training
 - ADP
 - Foster Parent Competency-Based Training
 - Standard First Aid / CPR
- Between April 1, 2007 and January 1, 2008
 - Over 1,700 participated in JTU-coordinated training (this total includes staff, foster parents and group care workers; some of whom participated in more than one type of training). Training included such topics as Critical Incident and Stress Management, child abuse investigation/interviewing, relationship-based strength approach, ADP training, non-violent crisis intervention, suicide prevention, orientation to the CFS system, child abuse committees, policy and procedure writing, FASD, child and youth care approach, Autism care, strategic planning, etc.
 - 869 participated in Core (competency-based series) training including 313 in the 100 series, 63 in the 500 series, 291 in the 800 series, and 202 in specialty modules (e.g., ASIST, Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, etc.); and
 - 35 participated in CFSIS related training.

- In addition to the above training initiatives and activities, each of the Authorities and individual agencies conducts training initiatives of their own specific to their particular needs.

Workload Relief/Management

- **Workload Relief**

- All of the funding for workload relief was distributed to the Authorities and their agencies. At year end, increases in volume indicated continued workload relief efforts are needed.
- As a follow-up to the workload relief effort, Standing Committee is working on a broader workload management strategy which includes continued action on workload relief. The purpose of the workload management strategy will be to help guide responses to ongoing workload issues. This effort is in the early stages and is focused on capturing the potential components of such a strategy.
- In December, as a result of joint work of the MGEU Committees, it was determined that a two day session will be held in the new year regarding a collaborative approach to recruitment and retention.

Standing Committee Office

- **Creation of a Permanent Resource under the Direction of Standing Committee**

- Work continues on transitioning the current Staff Team to a permanent resource in the form of a small coordination unit that provides ongoing support to Standing Committee.
- A model was developed and agreed to by Standing Committee. Meetings were held with the Ombudsman to discuss and refine the model. Job descriptions and other operational details are before Standing Committee for discussion and finalization. The model was submitted to the Leadership Council for their review and approval.
- In preparation for the establishment of the permanent resource, the Staff Team moved to 202 - 150 Henry Avenue on July 18, 2007. The Metis Authority is serving as the host for this office. The current staff complement is serving as a transition team until the new resource is in place. Presently, the Staff team has five members. Additional representatives will be added as resources permit.
- To further strengthen the governance model, Authorities have been provided with additional resources to each hire two policy analysts and an administrative support person. Their role will be to work on foundational matters identified for action by Standing Committee; jointly and within their

home Authorities. Posting for these positions began at the end of December and hiring is to occur during the first quarter of 2008.

- **Funding Model**

- Standing Committee is in the process of establishing a funding model project utilizing contracted resources.
- The purpose of the funding model project is to develop a new funding framework and funding models for the restructured child and family service system that reflects the strategic design principles of AJI-CWI, promotes and supports reform in the best interest of children, provides equitable distribution of funding while recognizing unique needs, regional disparities and cultural differences, and takes into account the recommendations of the external reviews (e.g., workload relief, differential response, etc.).
- This work is to begin once the contractors are in place. The project has an expected duration of two to three years.
- Prior to the funding model work being initiated, financial staff of the Authorities and the Child and Family Services Division developed a prototype model as a possible framework for making interim incremental funding adjustments to respond to and accommodate new monies being invested in the system. This prototype model remains under discussion.

FIPPA/ PHIA/CFS Act Interface

- A working group comprised of the Access and Privacy Coordinator for Family Services and Housing, a representative from the Strategic Initiatives and Program Support Branch, and representatives from the Staff Team was established.
- The group has been meeting during this reporting period to clarify how *FIPPA/PHIA/Child and Family Services Acts* relate to each other. A legal opinion was obtained in order to ensure that the information was not in violation of the respective Acts. This information was then summarized into an information fact sheet for CFS workers and external collaterals. The fact sheet provides guidelines for information sharing between collateral service providers and child and family services staff for the purposes of protecting children and providing coordinated services to families.
- Once approved by Standing Committee the fact sheet will be widely distributed and training and orientation sessions will be provided for agency staff as part of ongoing PHIA/FIPPA training. A training module, as well as a cross-departmental protocol on the “duty to report” will also be developed.

Other Developments/Activities

- **External Reporting Relationships**

- Individual meetings with the Ombudsman and the Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA) and Standing Committee were held on October 17, 2007,

- to discuss the relationship with Standing Committee based on the recent transition of responsibility for *Changes for Children* from the Implementation Team to Standing Committee and to determine the progress reporting process with respect to *Changes for Children*.
- Based on this meeting it was determined that the OCA and Ombudsman will meet with Standing Committee on a quarterly basis to provide updates on *Changes for Children* progress, an overview of activities the OCA and Ombudsman will be engaged in to facilitate their reporting on *Changes for Children*, and to discuss any cross Authority/system issues.
 - The Ombudsman's office will continue to meet with the Staff Team every second month to obtain detailed *Changes for Children* updates. The Staff Team will meet with the OCA upon request.
 - Authority/agency specific concerns or case related matters will be directed to individual Authorities immediately.
 - Other requests for information that may occur in between quarterly meetings will be coordinated through the Acting Coordinator of the Staff Team. When responding to such requests, Standing Committee will provide the same information to both the Ombudsman and OCA.
- **Federal/Provincial Jurisdictional Issues/Funding Equity**
 - Discussions continue regarding the issue of federal-provincial jurisdiction in relation to Jordan's principle and with respect to the funding of child and family services in First Nations communities. There is a commitment by all parties to continue to discuss ways to move forward on resolving inequalities and inequities that currently exist for First Nations children and families in reserve settings. To this end, Manitoba provincial and First Nations officials have been meeting with INAC representatives to discuss funding and other issues. This work will be linked to the funding model work described earlier.
 - In June 2007, the Manitoba government announced that it would adopt Jordan's Principle as policy should the federal government follow suit. A Private member's Motion calling for the federal government to adopt Jordan's principle received all party support and was passed by Parliament in December 2007.