

Preface/Introduction

Report Structure

The Annual Report is organized in accordance with the appropriation structure for Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities (CYO) as set out in the Main Estimates of Expenditure of the Province of Manitoba for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. The report includes information at the main and sub-appropriation levels relating to the Department's objectives and actual results achieved. Financial performance information is provided with expenditure and revenue variance explanations, and a five-year adjusted historical table of staffing and expenditures.

Role and Mission

Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities works with communities to create opportunities, maximize potential and promote positive engagement and contribution amongst Manitoba's children and youth. Children and Youth Opportunities focuses on evidence-based policies, programs and systemic change within the department, across government, and in the community, to increase opportunities for children and youth in Manitoba, in an effort to increase their success in the community, in school and in the workforce.

The overall responsibilities of the Minister and the Department include:

- Implementing and evaluating long-term evidence-based child and youth-centred public policy (prenatal – age 18 years) within and across departments to support healthy child and adolescent development, with particular emphasis on early childhood development.
- Providing youth (ages 15-29 years) with evidence-based programs and opportunities for career development, employment, training, self-employment, and opportunities to develop citizenship skills and knowledge.
- Developing and delivering recreational opportunities, wellness practices, volunteerism, physical activity, and community development opportunities at the local and regional level.
- Coordinating and implementing evidence-based crime prevention policies and programs by focusing on strengthening families, neighbourhoods and communities and reducing factors that put individuals, families and communities at risk.

The Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities is also the Chair of the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet and Minister responsible for *The Healthy Child Manitoba Act*, and as such leads the development and implementation of the Healthy Child Manitoba strategy, which works across departments and sectors to facilitate a community development approach for the well-being of Manitoba's children, families and communities. The Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet is chaired by the Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities and their annual report is tabled separately in the Legislative Assembly.

Highlights

- Supporting youth ages 15 to 29 with access to employment; career development resources; mentorship opportunities; youth engagement and leadership experiences; and information related to all provincial youth programming.
- Organizing an After School Network learning event for member organizations focused on the theme of Working with Victims of Trauma. The event provided participants with the opportunity to share their expertise with other funded youth-serving organizations that develop and deliver after-school programs; and participate in professional development sessions with recognized leaders in the field of positive youth development.
- The After School Leaders Program continued to expand in the 2015/16 program year (July – June). Approximately 338 youth from 12 schools enrolled in 10 career exploration programs, 4 of which were new in 2015/16.
- The Lighthouses program continued to support communities and organizations to provide youth with positive alternatives after-school and on weekends, a safe healthy environment and personal skill development (leadership, communication, problem-solving, decision making, conflict resolution, anger management, etc).
- Promoting and raising awareness of best practices in crime prevention and collaborating with communities to undertake evidence based activities.
- Promoting reconciliation between children under 12 in conflict with the law and the community; and facilitating the coordination of services for these children and their families.
- Establishing a new partnership with the Manitoba Institute of Trade and Technology to deliver the Youth Build program at its new location in the Social Enterprise Centre at 765 Main Street. CYO further reaffirmed its commitment to the Youth Build program with additional funding for facility upgrades that will improve the quality of client services and ensure programming meets Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning apprenticeship requirements.
- Continue to build on the Action Moving Forward to support Manitoba's new *Policy for Recreation Opportunities* announced on February 26, 2015. This policy re-affirms the government of Manitoba's commitment to recreation and identifies priorities as we continue to support and promote recreation in our province.