

# Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

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## Press Release

### Provincial Council Of Women Bring Their Concerns To The Legislature

21 October, 2005

A 24-woman delegation of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba (PCWM), led by President Mary Scott, presented its annual Brief to members of the New Democratic Party caucus on 29 September. A smaller group was pleased to meet with the Progressive Conservative party on 19 October, 2005. The written Brief, also sent to the Manitoba Liberal Party caucus, and accompanying questions, are available upon request.

"The PCWM Brief and the questions," says Mary Scott, "focus squarely on the issues of greatest concern to PCWM's 27 federate members." PCWM policies are reached, she noted, through a consultative process of resolutions.

PCWM is asking for:

- Improved access to government information through more routine disclosure and progressive amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- Reduced Government dependency on gambling revenues, greater transparency and accountability regarding gambling revenues, and the establishment of an all-party, expert working group to hold public hearings to examine the social and economic costs of gambling and to make recommendations;
- Sustainable land use and land use planning through clear provincial leadership, meaningful consultation with Winnipeggers on Plan Winnipeg and informed consultation with Winnipeggers in Winnipeg region decisions;
- Under "Health" - self-regulation of Dental Hygienists; increased community supports for mental health, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, HIV/AIDs, and problem solving approaches to the language and accreditation barriers in the health care system;
- Human rights for all Canadians, including aboriginal women;
- Government action to reduce poverty and an increase to the Manitoba minimum wage to a wage that covers the necessities of daily living;
- Routine and systematic, gender-based analysis of government policy and budgets.

At the meeting with fifteen members of the NDP caucus, PCWM commended the government on a number of its initiatives and reiterated its concerns on outstanding problems. Council also received some answers to the questions that were submitted in advance of the meeting. President Mary Scott has sent questions in writing to those elected government representatives who were unable to attend.

PCWM values the opportunity to meet with government and the opposition parties for discussion on issues which have profound ramification for women, children and families in Manitoba.

To obtain a copy of the Brief and the accompanying questions or for more information, please contact the PCWM Office.

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Honourary Patroness Her Honour, Ms Lenore Berscheid

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