

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.
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November 1, 2012

Hon. Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health
358 Legislative Building
450 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Honourable Minister Oswald,

Re: PCWM Policy: Health At Any Size and Urgent Eating Disorder Services Issue

In May, 2012, the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba adopted policy supporting the "health at every size" approach to assisting young people and all Manitobans overcome food related illnesses, disorders and poor health. The new policy resolution, 2012-1 HEALTH AT EVERY SIZE is attached.

Pursuant to this policy we urge the Government of Manitoba to support and implement policies in schools and healthcare that promote healthy life-styles; discourages dieting behaviours, weight bias or weight stigma; that trains healthcare professionals and teachers to support health at every size; and that inspires self-esteem in children about themselves and their bodies and promotes nutrition and an active lifestyle.

We also recognize and commend the Government of Manitoba for initiatives undertaken to date in this direction.

In 1987 PCWM had also adopted policy that specifically addresses Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia as follows:

ANOREXIA NERVOSA AND BULIMIA

1987 urged the Government of Manitoba through its Women's Health Directorate:
1) to set up an educational and preventative program for the problems of anorexia nervosa and bulimia directed to medical and helping professions and the general public; and
2) to increase outpatient services for anorexia nervosa and bulimia

We urged government intervention to assist young women and other Manitobans with eating disorders and appreciate the direction your government has taken on this vital issue.

Recently, we have been informed that there is a growing waiting list for eating disorders treatment from a 6-month wait a year ago to an 18-month wait for services at the

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Provincial Eating Disorder Prevention and Recovery Program (PEDPRP), delivered by the Women's Health Clinic, Winnipeg

We urge immediate attention and action to ameliorate this situation and provide services, whether temporarily or permanently, as patients suffering from eating disorders can be at risk for serious consequences if not treated in a timely manner.

We are advised that many of those currently waiting for treatment could be taken off the list if an Adult Eating Disorder Day Treatment program existed, which may be a solution among others that would help achieve a reduction in wait times.

We urge the Minister of Health to urgently take effective action to reduce eating disorder waiting lists.

We thank you for your attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Taylor
President, PCWM

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