



## **Backgrounder: Child Death Review Advisory Committee**

To maximize the potential for improvements to Manitoba's child serving systems, the Children's Advocate has assembled a multi-disciplinary review committee to provide cross-jurisdictional analysis of the special investigation review reports (formerly known as Section 10 Reviews) and tentative recommendations. The Children's Advocate will appoint committee members for a three-year term, with a possible reappointment for a second three year term. Current members include:

**Sgt. Christopher Ballard** has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted police for over twenty years. Following recruit training at Depot in Regina, Saskatchewan Sgt. Ballard was posted to 'D' Division (Manitoba) where he has spent his entire service. Sgt. Ballard has been posted to the communities of Lundar, Norway House, Swan River, Oxford House, and Falcon Beach.

In 2005, Sgt. Ballard was transferred to the RCMP Criminal Operations Branch located at D Division Headquarters in Winnipeg where he remains at this time. Sgt. Ballard has represented the RCMP on several provincial advisory committees over the past three years.

### **Marie Christian**

Marie Christian is the coordinator of Voices: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network, the provincial network of youth who've experienced Manitoba's child welfare system. Marie is a student at the University of Winnipeg. She is passionate about connecting with her brothers and sisters of care from across Manitoba, and across Canada, sharing ideas and making their voices heard. Marie brings the voice of youth to the committee.

### **Arnold J. Conner**

Admitted to The Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor 40 years ago, Arnold J Conner was appointed a part-time Judge of The Provincial Court of Manitoba in 1988, before being appointed a Judge five years later. During his tenure as Judge, he wrote the Inquest Report which became known as the Baby Sophia Inquest ". Conner retired in 2005.

### **Selamawi Ezuz**

Born and raised in Eritrea, Africa, Selamawi Ezuz emigrated from Sudan as a refugee in 1990. He is a Psychiatric Nurse currently employed by the N.E.E.D.S Center and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority WRHA as a Psychosocial Team Leader and a Psychiatric Nurse, respectively.

### **Charles A. Ferguson, B.A., M.D., C.M.**

Dr. Charles Ferguson co-published the first paper on child abuse in Canada in 1973. He has been the Director of the Children's Clinic at Children's Hospital, a consultant to the Northern Medical Unit and since 1990 the Director of the Child Protection Centre. He is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Manitoba and past Chair of the Board at Mount Carmel Clinic. He has worked extensively with urban, rural and Aboriginal agencies within the Province of Manitoba as a member of regional Child Abuse Committees for many years. He has had long-term exposure to cross cultural issues in the lives of thousands of children and their families. He is regarded as an expert in the area of child abuse and testifies in court matters in several provinces.

### **Anna Fontaine**

Prior to joining Indian and Northern Affairs, where she is now Acting Associate Regional Director General, Anna Fontaine was a schoolteacher. Ms. Fontaine started as an Economic Development officer in the Manitoba Region before being appointed Acting Manger of Economic Development and Aboriginal Procurement in April 2000. Ms. Fontaine attended the University of Saskatchewan where she obtained her degree in education. Ms. Fontaine has also completed the course work for a Masters of Education from the University of Manitoba.

### **Don Fuchs**

Don Fuchs is a full professor at the Faculty of Social Work at University of Manitoba. He has conducted extensive research on the role of social network and social support in strengthening families parenting ability and preventing child maltreatment. His current program of research focuses on creating profiles of children with disabilities and examining the determinants which result in children with disabilities (particularly FASD) coming into care and their experiences while in

care. He has done extensive international social development work in Russia for the past ten years as part of CIDA funded projects. He has served as Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at University of Manitoba for 11 years and was a founding participant in the development of the Prairie Child Welfare Consortium. He has been instrumental in the development of a Bachelor of Social Work option in Child and Family Services at the University of Manitoba.

### **Myra L. Laramée**

Myra Laramée is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation, who has lived and worked in Winnipeg her whole life. She believes it is an inherent right for every child on this Earth to safety in life. She has been an educator in the Inner City District of the Winnipeg School Division for 31 years. She retired in 2007, after having served as a Vice Principal at Hugh John Macdonald Junior High for 3 years and as Principal of Niji Mahkwa Elementary School for the last 12 years. She writes curriculum full time for the First Nations Education Resource Centre. And continues to be an instructor for the University of Manitoba, a position she has held for the last 15 years. She also conducts an annual Summer Institute in Aboriginal Education as well as a number of other courses in Aboriginal Education during the regular session. Myra has just completed her Doctoral course work in the area of Aboriginal Education and the acquisition, utilization, research and writing of Indigenous Knowledge.

### **Margaret Lavalée**

Margaret Lavalée was born and raised in Sagkeeng First Nation. She spent almost 20 years as the Director of Native Sciences at Health Sciences Centre. She currently works as an Aboriginal Awareness Facilitator with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and as an Elder in Residence at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine. Margaret sits on the Council of Elders and for the past 2 years has sat on The Grandmothers Protecting Our Children Council. Margaret is grandmother to 20 grandchildren.

### **Dr. Peter Markesteyn**

Since retiring as Chief Medical Examiner of Manitoba and Professor of Forensic Pathology in June 1999, Dr. Markesteyn has worked extensively in Kosovo for the war crimes Tribunal on behalf of the government of Canada. In 2001, he returned to Kosovo with funding from CIDA, The United Nations and with a grant from the Rotary International Visiting Scholar's program to help with the reconstitution of the Institute of Forensic Sciences as Kosovo's Chief Medical Examiner. In 2005, Dr Markesteyn was appointed as Newfoundland's delegate to the former Child Advocate where he completed the death investigation of Zachary Turner. As Manitoba's past Chief Medical Examiner Dr Markesteyn established the first multidisciplinary Child Death Review Committee in Canada.

### **Doris Young, B.A. (Hons.) M.P.A.**

Doris Young is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and is the Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs at the University College of the North (UCN) in The Pas, Manitoba. She was the first President of the Indigenous Women's Collective of Manitoba and is a recipient of the *Circle of Fire* Aboriginal Women's Award for her community work. She was also the Senior Researcher for the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (AJI) and was then appointed an Elder of the AJI Implementation Commission. She is a past member of the Board of Governors, University of Manitoba and the Health Science Centre, as Chair of the Aboriginal Services Committee. She is presently a member of the Nor-Man Regional Health Authority, the Residential School Committee at the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, and the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Women's Council.

### **Cecil Sveinson**

Cecil Sveinson has been a member of the Winnipeg Police Service for 17 years. He is currently a Program Manager of the Aboriginal Diversity Policing Section. He follows his traditional beliefs and has been providing suicide prevention training for 6 years.