



COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF PHOENIX SINCLAIR

Commission Disclosure 1890



MINISTER OF
FAMILY SERVICES AND HOUSING

Room 357
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

November 16, 2001

To: Staff of Winnipeg Child and Family Services

Today the Government of Manitoba informed Manitobans of its plans for laying the foundation for the General Authority, which will serve non-Aboriginal families and children in the child and family services system after the implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI).

Significant new features of the plan include:

- The development and implementation of a transition plan that will see child and family services for non-Aboriginal children and families in Winnipeg delivered by the Department of Family Services and Housing's regional operations on or after April 1, 2003.
- The establishment of an Interim Management Board for Winnipeg Child and Family Services that will be charged with:
 - planning and managing the transition to regional operations;
 - planning and managing the transition under the AJI-CWI; and
 - planning and managing strategies to address the Agency's current fiscal challenges.

The Interim Management Board will be comprised of nine new directors appointed by Government and four directors elected by members who live or work in each of the four service areas. There will continue to be staff representation on the Board. Mr. Jay Rodgers will chair the Interim Management Board.

Dr. Linda Trigg will continue to manage the agency as the Interim Executive Officer.

During the initial phase of the transition, from November 16, 2001 until March 31, 2003, planning for the transition to the Department of Family Services and Housing's regional operations will take place. Winnipeg Child and Family Services will remain a separate organization and the Interim Management Board and the Interim Executive Officer will direct the operation of the agency. During this period, employees will continue to be covered by their existing collective agreements. Also during this period, the Government of Manitoba, MGEU and CUPE, will negotiate transition agreements. The transition agreements will spell out the details around the transfer in accordance with the respective collective agreements, *The Labour Relations Act*, and *The Civil Service Act*.

On December 22, 2000, we wrote to you about the restructuring of the child and family services system that will take place as part of the AJI-CWI. The following commitment was included in that letter:

“After extensive discussions, we are pleased to announce that the Government of Manitoba has committed to ensuring that no current, permanent employee of the Child and Family Services system, who is in a bargaining unit or comparable position, will be disadvantaged as a result of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative.”

The restructuring that we are writing to you about today, that will see Winnipeg Child and Family Services transition to the Department of Family Services and Housing, does not diminish the commitment made on December 22, 2000.

The unions representing employees in the system, MGEU and CUPE, and the Government of Manitoba are engaging in discussions to develop a mutually acceptable Workforce Adjustment Strategy for the AJI-CWI.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
TIM SALE**

Tim Sale

cc: Mr. Paul Moist, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Mr. Peter Olfert, Manitoba Government Employees' Union
Mr. Jay Rodgers, Chair, Winnipeg Child and Family Services
Dr. Linda Trigg, Winnipeg Child and Family Services

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