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

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**Commission Disclosure 0309**

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE  
STATUS REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** 61CMR

**DATE:** July 13, 2011

**EXTERNAL RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend that the child welfare system provide assistance to children who have been in the care of the child welfare system and who are "aging out" of it, to ensure that the support that they receive focuses on independent living skills, rather than being cut off upon reaching majority..

**WORK PROJECT:** Strengthening Our Youth

**SUB-PROJECT:** Youth in Transition

**BACKGROUND:**

In response to this recommendation, a number of projects have been developed including:

- **Vision Catcher Fund.** In March 2009, the Age of Majority Initiative provided funding to Authorities and agencies for the Vision Catcher Fund. This fund provides financial support for youth leaving care to enable them to participate in post-secondary education, apprenticeship opportunities and other activities including sport, music, spiritual activities and art.
- **Mentorship Project.** The Authorities, in partnership with agencies, have developed a Mentorship Project whereby youth leaving care are partnered with an adult who has successfully transitioned out-of-care themselves. This program receives funding annually, allowing agencies to financially remunerate the youth mentors.
- **Youth Engagement.** Funds are provided to agencies to finance opportunities to bring youth who are preparing for independence, together to give input into the development of agency programs to meet their needs.
- **MYTEAM.** Family Services and Consumer Affairs announced the MYTEAM initiative, which is a four-year pilot project targeted to youth age sixteen to twenty-one to prepare them for leaving care. MYTEAM offers approximately thirty youth per year with a range of supports including direct financial assistance, supportive housing, educational assistance, employment placement, job coaches/mentors, health benefits and child care if required.
- **Boys and Girls Club Initiative.** The Winnipeg Partnership Agreement funded the Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg to provide formal education, training, work experience and life skill development to inner-city adults between the ages of eighteen to twenty-nine years.
- **The Future is Yours project.** Ma Mawi Chi Itatia Inc.'s The Future is Yours project is funded to provide youth between the ages of twelve to eighteen years with employability skills, volunteer experience, job shadowing,

personal development, and Aboriginal cultural awareness to improve their employability potential.

- Resource Assistance for Youth. The Resource Assistance for Youth program provides youth with casual jobs combined with supportive programming leading to their readiness to enter the labour market independently.
- First Jobs 4 Youth. The Spence Neighbourhood Association's First Jobs 4 Youth Project provides a training course for at-risk youth from the inner city of Winnipeg and northern Manitoba to encourage them to stay in school and to develop employability skills.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Significant Progress

**OPTIONS:** N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** N/A

**MEDIA INTEREST:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That this recommendation be reviewed by Standing Committee and a decision made as to what other steps, if any, are necessary to complete this recommendation.

**COMPLETED BY:** Jeanette Grennier  
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**Commission Disclosure 0310**