



CFS Western launches *Differential Response* programs

BRANDON: Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba (CFS Western) is excited to formally launch two new programs: the *Family Enhancement Model* and the *Westman Safer Families Project*. Both fall under the *Differential Response* (DR) approach to child welfare, which is part of the province's *Changes for Children* project. DR programs create a new capacity in the child welfare system to intervene early with families in a supportive way to prevent situations where children become in need of protection.

"The basis of our initiatives is to provide families with early intervention, appropriate supports, and resources that can help them deal with their situations while keeping their children safe and protected," says **Dave McGregor**, Chief Executive Officer.

The *Family Enhancement Model* focuses on the development of a working partnership among families, CFS Western's family enhancement workers, and various other community resources.

"Our family enhancement workers will work collaboratively with the family and an extended support network to address the family's needs," says **Marie Wotton**, Supervisor, Family and Community Development.

"This includes building on the family's strengths by offering them support and solutions at the earliest stage possible to help prevent their situation from deteriorating."

The *Westman Safer Families Project* is a one year developmental project to address the various needs of families experiencing violence in their home.

"The project's mandate is to develop a program proposal which will provide better supports and services for families dealing with abuse in their personal relationships," says Wotton, "and that will meet the unique needs of each family in this situation."

An extensive community consultation process is part of the plan to help develop the project proposal.

The *Family Enhancement Model* and the *Westman Safer Families Project* were first announced at CFS Western's Annual General Meeting in June 2009. The two programs will operate out of the Agency's newly opened *Family and Community Development Centre*, located at Unit 4, 613 10th Street in Brandon.

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