



Family Services and Housing

Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Family Services
216 – 114 Garry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4V4
T 204 945-3257 F 204 948-2669
www.manitoba.ca

SEP 04 2008

Mr. Colin Craig
212 - 428 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0E2

Dear Mr. Craig:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part 2 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA):
(Our File Number: 08-00056)

On July 2, 2008, the Department of Family Services and Housing received your application for access to the following records [in your words as stated on your application]:

“Please provide any details on the “southern authority’s” (all nations coordinated response) “spa day”. Please include all costs for the activity, including, but not limited to funds spent on the manicures, pedicures and tarot card reading.

Further please provide details on similar employee events within department for the past five years (how often do they occur, types of activities, breakdown of expenses).”

I am writing to inform you that your request for information has been granted under the Act.

Staff from the All Nations Coordinated Response Network (ANCR) participated in a one day wellness workshop on May 22, 2008 (a total of 165 staff work at ANCR). The workshop was held at the ANCR office site on Portage Avenue. Staff members participated in seminars that focused on teambuilding, job stress management, mental health, physical fitness, and lifestyle management which encouraged healthy living in order to improve work productivity. Elders were also available to provide counseling and guidance to staff. In addition to these sessions, staff were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of services.

The costs of the workshop were provided by a number of sources. The cost to ANCR was \$1,776.71, including \$1,361.71 for refreshments and lunch (at a cost of \$8.25 per person) and a cultural sweat which totaled \$415.00.

In kind donations of \$2,875.00 were provided by various local businesses for services. Remaining costs of \$2292.81 are being paid directly by staff, fund raising, and donations.


Supporting staff in the developing healthy life styles and recognizing the need to develop staff morale was recognized in the external reviews and documented in the section on Human Resources in *Strengthen the Commitment: An External Review of the Child Welfare System*. Research has also shown the effectiveness of employee wellness initiatives. For every dollar spent on wellness programs, the returns have been observed by significant cost savings in the form of decreased absenteeism, fewer sick days, reduced Workers Compensation Board claims, lowered health and insurance costs, and improvements to employee performance and productivity.

ANCR staff must routinely address stressful situations. As such, pro-actively promoting the health and well-being of staff is one way to support staff within this environment.

The Department has not held any similar employee wellness events over the past five years.

If you have any questions respecting this application, please call Ms. Judy Dandurand, Access and Privacy Coordinator at (204) 945-2013 and reference your file number as **08-00056**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Loeppky', written in a cursive style.

Carolyn Loeppky
Access and Privacy Officer

cc: Ms. Judy Dandurand