

## **Housing Update December 2009**

In early November, a *Proposal for Age Appropriate Housing for Adults with both Cognitive and Physical Disabilities* was submitted to Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health, Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister for Housing and Community Development, Jennifer Howard, Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities and Jim Rondeau, Minister for Healthy Living. The proposal was developed through a partnership (known as the Housing Committee) of the Manitoba representatives of the MS Society of Canada, Huntington Society of Canada, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, Parkinson Society Canada and Manitoba Brain Injury Association. It was submitted on behalf of Manitobans aged 18-65 with complex health needs who require high levels of care, both physical and cognitive, and affordable, accessible, age appropriate accommodation.

The committee has been invited to meet with the NDP Caucus at the beginning of February 2010 to offer a presentation and have a discussion regarding the proposal. The desired outcome is support from the Manitoba Government to fund and build a facility that will include appropriate levels and mix of staff, a variety of basic and specialized health services, assistive living services and suitable social and recreational activities in a safe, accessible, residential environment. The intention is that services will be individualized according to needs and can be increased as disease/disability progresses.

The committee will be including in our delegation members of the partner organizations whose housing needs fall within the parameters described in the proposal. We hope the impact of these voices will be strong and we will have positive news to report.