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# MFEATnew

## Pre-School ABA Program Update

The Preschool Service is currently operating at full capacity. Current estimates will see approximately 23 children will be transitioning to school in September. Children from the preschool services waitlist will be accommodated as that occurs.

The focus over the next few months will be planning for this very large transition as well as intake for our new clients.

*(continued on page 3)*



## MFEAT's Annual General Meeting

MFEAT's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 17, 2006** from 10:00 am until noon at St. Amant Centre, 440 River Road, Wpg. We will be discussing many critical issues and need the support of the entire membership in order for us to be successful in our quest. Agenda for this meeting is on page seven. Plan to attend!

## President's Report

Once again spring is upon us as our thoughts turn toward summer vacations. The MFEAT board remains very busy as we continue to work on several important issues. I've provided highlights on a few of these issues below.

### Advocacy Update School Age ABA

**Interim Funding:** MFEAT continues to meet with government representatives to

develop strategies to address various implementation issues including limited resources to properly administer the interim funding. This issue is of utmost importance as it requires an immediate solution in order for the interim funding arrangements to continue over the next budget year. *(continued on page 4)*

### Calendar

- MFEAT AGM ..... June 17, 2006
- St. Amant 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference ..... Oct 5 & 6, 2006
- MABA Conference ..... Oct 7, 2006
- ASM Conference ..... April 20, 2007
- AAPC Conference .... Aug 14&15, 2006

**Manitoba Families for Effective Autism Treatment**  
162-2025 Corydon Ave  
Suite 129  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3P 0N5  
www.mfeat.ca info@mfeat.ca



# THE 15th ANNUAL St. Amant Conference Developmental Disabilities and Autism

## Registration is now open

**Western Canada's premiere conference on developmental disabilities and autism celebrates its 15th year. Register now to participate in this major event in Winnipeg on October 5 & 6, 2006.**

St. Amant, a comprehensive resource for people with developmental disabilities and autism, invites you to the 15th Annual St. Amant Conference. The conference takes place at the Canad Inn Fort Garry in Winnipeg.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Alvin Law, who overcame the fact he was born without arms to become a popular and inspiring motivational speaker. The Calgary resident believes there is no such word as "can't".

The plenary speaker is Paul Young. As a child, Young was labelled "mentally challenged." Due to his own determination, Young completed high school, learned to drive, married, and enjoyed a career in broadcasting before embarking on a second career as a consultant on intellectual disabilities.

The 15th Annual St. Amant Conference's exciting full program is being put together, and further announcements will be forthcoming.

**To register for the 2006 Conference, or to receive additional registration information:**

- ◆ Call Marlys Nagy at (204) 256-4301 ext. 4372
- ◆ E-mail [nagy@stamant.mb.ca](mailto:nagy@stamant.mb.ca)

# Congratulations to Yude Henteleff

*Winnipeg Free Press  
Wednesday, May 31, 2006*

Yude Henteleff, who was instrumental in giving assistance and counsel to MFEAT in our earlier history, is being given an honorary degree at the 127th annual spring convocation.

"Yude Henteleff graduated from Uof M with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture in 1947 and a Bachelor of Law in 1951.

He has served as one of Canada's greatest advocates for children with special needs.

Henteleff has been involved as a volunteer in human-rights projects in many parts of the world, including Colombia, Bolivia, Thailand, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan and, most recently Israel.

In 1997, the Colombian Corporation for Learning Disabilities named the resource centre that it had established in Bogota , Colombia, as the Yude M. Henteleff QC Research Centre for Learning Disabilities in recognition of his contributions to its establishment. He is a member of the Order of Canada."

Congratulations and thank you Yude!

*(Preschool Program update continued)*

The ABA Program General Staff Meeting on May 8 was a valuable time of connection. Staff were presented with updated 1 and 2-year outcome data. Dr. Carl Stephens joined us to speak about St. Amant's new strategic plan and the core values of Respect, Excellence, Collaboration and Hospitality, as well as our Customer Care Initiative. As part of our review and assessment of the program structure to determine efficiencies and need for support in our rapidly growing program reported on in the last MFEAT newsletter, there have been some staff additions to our rapidly growing program. We have created the much-needed position of scheduling clerk, and managed other staffing changes to our administrative team. Our main focus continues to be on the recruitment and retention of our consulting staff as we look to the demand for preschool and school age services for September 2005. This is being accomplished through the encouragement of continued education for locally-based individuals as well as advertising efforts abroad. Tutor staffing needs are being targeted well through increased efforts around recruitment, support and continued professional development opportunities. Several program employees are attending the Association for Behaviour Analysis Convention in Atlanta this month. This includes senior tutors and

consultants who will be presenting their research, as well as staff who will be promoting the program to the 3000 + attendees.

A program family was highlighted in a recent Global television newscast. We thank the family and tutors for their rapid response to Global's request for the interview, and their positive representation of the ABA Preschool Service.

*Administrative Coordinator –  
Preschool Services  
Shelley Malyk*

## Different Roads to Learning

Different Roads to Learning now has a website. Log-On and check out their expanded product line.

They offer educational material that meet the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

[www.difflern.com](http://www.difflern.com)



*(President's report continued)*

We are also continuing to work on our goal of transitioning to more optimal, permanent school age ABA programming. We have developed a revised proposal for a transition to permanent school age models for discussion and will be trying to finalize this document in time for inclusion in the next budget cycle.

An information session on school age ABA services was held at Canad Inn -Fort Gary on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The session was well attended and the information exchange was very good. While some families are experiencing difficulties, there are a lot of success stories from families who have cooperation from their schools and school divisions. The dialogue between all parties was very useful and I think families found the session to be very beneficial.

*We are planning on having a short presentation on the status of school age ABA services followed by a question and answer period at the Annual General Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. An agenda for this meeting is included in this newsletter.*

St Amant and MFEAT are also continuing to work on staff recruitment issues and we should have a better idea of the status of consultant availability at this meeting.

It is extremely important for families who are interested in ABA services in school to attend.

**ABA Preschool Program:**

The program is continuing to operate at full capacity although there are a number of families exiting the program in September. Although there is currently a waitlist for services, we anticipate that there will be room in the program as a result of these departures. For more information on the preschool program please call St Amant centre 204-256-4301 or visit the website at

<http://www.stamant.mb.ca/ABAProgram/index.html>

**Additional Initiatives**

**MFEAT Conference:** Once again plans are underway for our annual conference. We are in the process of finalizing the details and once again the slate of presenters looks very good. The event will be held on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Canad Inn Polo Park. More information will be available very soon.

**MFEAT Representation at ABA:** Kevin Augustine, Vice President of MFEAT, attended the Association of Behaviour Analysis Annual Conference in Atlanta. In addition to attending information sessions, Kevin's role included promoting MFEAT and assisting St Amant Centre with manning the booth for the

St Amant ABA program in Manitoba. This event serves as an excellent opportunity to promote the Manitoba ABA program, establish connections with ABA professionals worldwide, and work on recruiting potential staff to work for the St Amant program. MFEAT was very pleased to have an opportunity to take part in this event and promote our successful partnership with St Amant Centre.

**MFEAT Library:** The executive board has decided to purge some of the items from the MFEAT library. We will be disposing of all items with the exception of books and videos which will remain in the library for use by MFEAT members. Some of the items (toys, cards etc) will be given away at the AGM to families who are interested. A free will offering in lieu of these items may be given if families chose to do so.

**MABA Membership:** MFEAT has taken out a membership in the newly created Manitoba chapter of Applied Behaviour Analysis. We are very excited with the establishment of this body and we encourage all MFEAT families to apply for an affiliate membership. For more information please visit the website at [www.maba.ca](http://www.maba.ca).

**Annual General Meeting:**  
The MFEAT Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 10AM- 12AM at St Amant Centre. We will be dealing with a lot of important issues, including electing an executive for the upcoming year. It is important for all members to attend as we are your voice for advocacy at many levels, and we can not relay information and concerns that we don't hear.

It is certainly a critical time for MFEAT as we strive to develop ABA services in the school setting. We need the support of the entire membership in order for us to be successful in our quest. I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me or any other board member with any questions, comments or concerns you have about our organization.

MFEAT President  
*Eldon Strachan*

**Our Mission Statement**  
*Our mission is to ensure Manitoba children with Autism Spectrum Disorder have access to effective treatment*

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## Bill C-211 & Bill C-212



**39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 1<sup>st</sup> Session  
Thursday, April 6, 2006  
Routine Proceedings**

On Thursday, April 6, 2006, Peter Stoffer MP tabled two Private Members' Bills in the House of Commons that concern autism. The first, Bill C-211, would include autism treatment in Medicare if passed. Feel free to spread the word among your colleagues about this Bill and to write to your MP and encourage federal politicians to support it, to debate it, to vote on it, and to pass it!

### Canada Health Act

**Mr. Peter Stoffer (Sackville—Eastern Shore, NDP)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-211, An Act to amend the Canada Health Act (Autism Spectrum Disorder).

He said: Mr. Speaker, there are 346,000 children in this country that have autism spectrum disorder. Unfortunately, the federal government does not play a role in their lives at all. We are asking the federal government to assist the provinces and territories with financial funding through the health care system to provide the treatment that these families can then give to their children.

It is unacceptable that 346,000 children and their families are left out of the Canada Health Act all together. This bill would include those beautiful children so that they would have a chance at a quality of life that we all take for granted. *(Motions deemed adopted, bill read for the first time and printed)*

### Canadian Autism Day Act

**Mr. Peter Stoffer (Sackville—Eastern Shore, NDP)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-212, An Act respecting a Canadian Autism Day.

He said: Mr. Speaker, quite simply, on April 23 of this year and every other year we would like to have that day recognized as national autism day, so that people such as Laurel Gibbons of Ottawa and Roxanne Black of British Columbia and their children could be recognized on what these children and their families go through on a day to day basis.

By having a national day in honor of this, we could then possibly turn our attention to further research and further assistance, so we can find a cure for this neurological disorder. By highlighting this day, we also highlight the abilities that these beautiful children have and what they can provide to our country as well.

*(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed).*

## In the Media

*Documentary Film on Autism Stuns Internet Viewers "Autism Every Day" produced for Autism Speaks.*



From the Autism Speaks Website: Autism Every Day is a new film produced by Lauren Thierry and Jim Watkins of October Group and Eric Solomon of Milestone Video.

The film was screened at "A New Decade for Autism", a fundraising event held May 9, 2006 in New York City, and subsequently broadcast by Don Imus on his show on MSNBC.

Just after the documentary "Autism Every Day" aired on the Don Imus show, early Wednesday, May 10, around 7 am eastern, stunned reactions from media tracking autism parents began to appear on support discussion lists on the internet.

First reaction came from a parent and member of discussion group, who alerted the other members simply saying, "The best PSA I have ever seen. Amazing!!"

Then D., another list member added "I've just finished crying. I might jump on the Autism Speaks bandwagon". Now this was getting interesting!

Another parent, an activist added, "To feel the impact of this is not like any other segment I have seen. . . so many examples in such a short time. . .so much was covered - behaviors, finances, dreams lost, worries of the future...and all from the parents and children living it, not from reporters. Is there a way we can get a copy of this to present to legislators, educators, therapists, etc? It is a mirror reflecting our lives."

"I am a video guy and this is the best I have ever seen and the only thing that shows what we as parents are going through," added parent J. who had the good fortune of seeing it that day, too.

From list member A.: "I was in a puddle of tears and had real trouble getting myself together to get the kids off to school. I think it's excessively hard for those of us to watch our lives in that fashion but extremely necessary for the rest of the population to see. . . Shock and awe may take on a new meaning." Warning other parents who had not yet seen

it, she said in a later post, "You will probably break down crying hysterically. I was not expecting this reaction or I would not have watched it with my kids next to me. My girls came running to hug their incapacitated mother. My ASD son somehow realizing it was about him came to watch a small clip. Prepare yourself."

The discussions were abuzz with questions, "when will it air again?", "will they put it on a website?"

On the Sunday following, it was announced that the documentary was on the Autism Speaks website at:

[http://www.autismspeaks.org/sponsoredevents/autism\\_every\\_day.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/sponsoredevents/autism_every_day.php)

Positive reactions, an understatement, continued to pour in. "OMG! . . . This is heart wrenching! I cried my eyes out. I have forwarded this to everyone in my e-mailbox. WOW", said R.

"Unbelievable. Someone has captured autism in 13 minutes. Someone has shown what autism is all about. I am so grateful. I am so thankful," remarked another viewer. This is the best mothers day gift to me ever. . ."

# Manitoba Families for Effective Autism Treatment

**Annual General Meeting Agenda  
Saturday, June 17, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.**

**West Dining Room  
St Amant Centre**

**Welcoming and Introductions**

**5 mins**

Introductions ..... Eldon

**MFEAT Business**

**55 mins**

- 1. Adoption of Agenda..... Eldon
- 2. Approval of Minutes of Oct 29, 2005 Meeting .....All
- 3. President's Report ..... Eldon
- 4. Treasurer's Report/ Approval of Audited Financial Statement.....Stephen
- 5. Election of Directors.....All
- 6. Appointment of Auditor.....Stephen
- 7. Old Business ..... Eldon
  - a. Annual Conference ..... Eldon
  - b. Pre-school Program Update ..... Kevin/Eldon/Teresa
  - c. MFEAT Parent Support Group..... Kevin/ Leslie
- 8. New Business
  - a. MABA Memberships..... Eldon
  - b. MFEAT Library ..... Teresa
  - c. Other New Business Items.....All
  - d. Next Meeting .....All

**School Age ABA Update Presentation**

**60 mins**

# Autism Society of Manitoba 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Conference



The annual Autism Conference is a joint endeavour of Autism Society

Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre Autism Program. The purpose of the conference is to educate and to facilitate connections between families, professionals and the larger community regarding needs of individuals with and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Featured speaker, Temple Grandin, Ph.D, will be speaking on visual thinking, careers, sensory problems and the unwritten rules of social relationships. The conference will be held at the CanadInns, Polo Park on April 20, 2007. For more information call: 204-783-9563.

## Autism Asperger Publishing Company



### 6th Annual Conference

*How to Plan a Comprehensive Program for Students on the Autism Spectrum*  
August 14-15, 2006

Ramada Grand Forks, ND  
Guest Speakers:

Tara Tuchel, MS, CCC-SLP; Judith Coucouvanis, MA, APRN, BC; Kirby Lentz, Ed.D; Kari Dunn Buron, MS

For more information visit [www.asperger.net](http://www.asperger.net)

# Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA)



The Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA) is a newly founded organization whose purpose is to develop and disseminate knowledge about behaviour analysis as a science.

MABA has applied for Chapter status to a larger organization called the Association for Behaviour Analysis ([www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org))

MABA's interests lie in basic science focusing on principles governing human and nonhuman behaviour (i.e., the experimental analysis of behaviour) as well as applied science focusing on application of those principles for improvement of socially important problems (i.e., the applied behaviour analysis), and disseminating this information to stimulate

interest in and correct misunderstandings of behaviour analysis.

If you are a Behaviour Analyst, Professor, Psychologist, Researcher, Graduate Student, Undergraduate Student, Senior Tutor, Tutor, Speech Pathologist, Teacher, Parent, Resident Assistant, Respite Worker, Teaching Assistant (and membership is not just limited to those categories), please consider membership in the organization. You will be provided with article and book reviews, information on relevant workshops or conferences and kept abreast of the latest news in behaviour analysis. If there is anything you think we should be done for members that has not yet been thought of, please feel free to contact them with your requests.

The first annual MABA conference will be held on October 7, 2006 in the P412 Duff Roblin Building at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB. Invited speakers: TBA

**CALL FOR PAPERS!!!!**  
Deadline is July 7, 2006. For submission requirements, registration, and more information visit the website at: [www.maba.ca](http://www.maba.ca)