

# HIGHLIGHTS OF

## Specialink's

### 2009-2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 21, 2010 at 12 noon CST  
St. Boniface College, Collège Universitaire de Saint Boniface  
Winnipeg  
Light lunch was served

3 board members, the outgoing executive director, and 11 regular members attended the AGM in Winnipeg. 3 current board members and 7 nominees also participated by conference call. There were 2 regrets from current board members.

(Non-Winnipeg Board members  
board members/nominees were able to  
conference call into the meeting, thanks to financial support from CUPW)

After a welcome by Vic Stone, chairperson, the AGM proceeded according to the by-laws of the organization. The meeting was especially important because it closed the Winnipeg chapter of Specialink, after which the organization was returning to Sydney, Nova Scotia. Because of extreme financial pressures facing the organization, the board of directors accepted the recommendation made by the Executive Director, Debra Mayer, to lay her off. The previous Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Hope Irwin, had agreed to take on the task, with consultative and financial assistance from several organizations and several board members.

In his report, Reg Malanchuk, the treasurer, reflected on the difficulties of the 2009-2010 fiscal year. He pointed out the difference between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 years, with particular attention to conference earnings. There were a lot of significant unknowns for Debra this year, and we appreciate her generosity when not knowing when and how much she was getting paid, for a lot of work and very little revenue. There is enough cash left to pay final bills after waiting for receivables. A small balance will be transferred to the East Coast. This past year's increase in paid membership is encouraging; the trainings across the country and into Australia and the US produced some revenue. Unfortunately, we are financially exhausted. The financial numbers certainly don't represent all the work and its importance. We tried to support Debra as best we could, through a combined severance and retroactive package to keep her salary at the same rate as previous year. Thanks for your confidence in me. I'm pleased at working with the kind of professional that Debra is. Thank you everyone. I wish you well. Mot

**Election of new Directors for the ensuing year** (see list of directors on home page.)

## **Acknowledgment of Outgoing Board Members**

(Debra Mayer) This is a very emotional time for me. I sincerely want to thank the outgoing board members for their dedication and hard work, during a really difficult time which included dismantling the resource center at the UW; My thanks to Reg for making the numbers balance; to Phil Baker who has been our liaison with University of Winnipeg and who made things happen at UW such as getting space and support for the resource centre and helping to support some organizational costs through his budget, not through SpecialLink's. I want to thank Joanne Vinet, our only francophone number and our unofficial translator, for her efforts to keep the French web site as up to date as possible. I want to thank her for her willingness to take our message out, in French, to a conference of francophone educators in Edmonton. Last but not least, a big thank you to Vic who took this task on as volunteers do not expect to do. As a father of a growing up child with special needs, Vic brought a very critical perspective to the board. (I'm glad that another parent of a child with special needs is on the board). Vic has helped me to submit several proposals to the federal government with a special eye to the budgets and cash flow projections. I salute all of you.

### **Member Forum: Ideas for upcoming year**

In process: Web site expansion, thanks to assistance from the Centre for Family, Work and Well-Being. Two papers will be delivered at international conferences (DEC and IAEL) and it is anticipated that Sharon, Donna and Jamie Kass (of CUPW) will be witnesses at hearings of the HUMA Committee of the House of Commons.

Proposals. (Donna Lero) With the Early Learning Program in ON, a number of people have signaled to them that children with disabilities must be kept in the forefront. (Debra) Keynote and workshop planned for December 2010 the Edmonton Learning Consortium for providing professional development on inclusion to the early childhood community, including family resource and early education people. (Dominique) Schools are mandated to have plans in place for all children, including all with disabilities. Need to recruit a lawyer for the board to take up the positions suggested by the very recent ruling of the Supreme Court on the role of tribunals. Donna: That we have the SpecialLink bulletin include a piece from across the country and an interactive forum on what supports inclusion.

### **New Business**

We will post the highlights of the AGM on the SpecialLink web site, along with biographies of new board members

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 20, at 1:00 pm AST (noon in Toronto, 11:00 am in Winnipeg and 9:00 am in Vancouver) at Family Place Resource Centre, 106 Townsend Street, Sydney (902-562-5616). We will be sending you call-in information closer to the meeting date.

Thank you to Joanne Vinet and Collège Universitaire de Saint Boniface for hosting this AGM.

## SPECIALINK's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

June 21, 2010 at 12 noon CST  
Salon Sportex (1341)  
Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface  
200, avenue de la Cathédrale, Winnipeg (Manitoba)

A light lunch will be served

We encourage all Manitoba members to attend in person. If you do not live in Manitoba, but are visiting there, please try to attend as well. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to cover either travel costs or costs for members on a conference call. To keep you informed, we will post, on the Specialink web site, draft Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting as soon as possible.

If you can attend, please notify Vic Stone at vicstone@mts.net by June 17, 2010.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2009 annual meeting
4. Presentation and Discussion of 2009-10 Annual Report
  - a. Chairperson's Report
  - b. Report of the Executive Director
  - c. Report on Canadian Council of Learning project
5. Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2010
6. Appointment of auditors
7. Election of Directors for the ensuing year
8. Acknowledgment of Outgoing Board Members
9. Member Forum: Ideas for upcoming year (all members may submit ideas to Sharon Hope Irwin via e-mail at: sharon@specialinkcanada.org Please submit ideas by June 17th)
10. New Business
11. Adjournment