

<b>Tina Fontaine</b>	<b>Recommendation Four</b>	<b>Reported Status: (not reported)</b>
<b>Report Sent: March 12, 2019</b>	<b>Public Body: Manitoba Justice</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation Four:</b>          The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Manitoba government, through its Deputy Ministers of Health and Social Policy and Priorities (DMHSPP) committee, work with the government’s Legislation and Strategic Policy Branch to analyse the province of Alberta’s <i>Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act</i> and Alberta’s <i>Drug-Endangered Children Act</i> to determine how safe and secure treatment facilities can be introduced in Manitoba. It is further recommended that the DMHSPP committee develop a plan to ensure the continuum of services for children and youth includes safe, secure, home-like settings for treatment and programming when children and youth are at imminent risk of harm or death.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The continuum of services plan developed by the DMHSPP committee must define imminent risk, ensuring the definition contemplates issues of homelessness, addiction, and sexual exploitation.</li> <li>• The development of a plan for safe and secure treatment facilities must include consultation with subject matter experts, persons with lived experience, and community stakeholders to ensure the treatment settings are safe, secure, therapeutic, effective, and culturally informed.</li> </ul>		

**Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:**

Summary of activities completed since report was released

The government did not provide a specific response to this recommendation related to Tina Fontaine. Their response was “Please refer to response to Recommendations #5 and #6 in *In Need of Protection: Angel’s Story*.”

Their responses to recommendations 5 and 6 in *In Need of Protection: Angel’s Story* are provided immediately below.

**Response to recommendation 5 in *In Need of Protection: Angel’s Story*:**

The Manitoba mental health and addictions system strategy and design project is a whole-of-government approach to ensuring services are accessible to Manitobans who need them. This includes work related to the implementation of recommendations made in the Virgo report, as well as broader system design work to improve the integration and coordination of services. Part 1 of this recommendation closely aligns with the Virgo report, therefore it is anticipated it will be addressed through the implementation planning process. Please see the details provided in Recommendation #4 in the Circling Star response about the embedding AFM youth counsellors in nine community-based organizations to improve access.



Additionally, this recommendation aligns with a key finding from the Tracia's Trust research report, Collaboration and Best Practices to End Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking in Manitoba, which also identifies the importance of specialized placements and resources to support exploited youth including addressing factors such as addictions and mental health. As noted under Recommendation #2, the key findings were shared with Knowledge Keepers, seeking feedback and outlining a draft plan that will be reviewed by stakeholders to inform the next steps of the strategy. The Southern First Nations Network of Care advises the case management standards training is still being developed, with anticipated delivery beginning in Fall 2019 and then available quarterly and as requested. The transitional planning training remains in development, anticipated to be two days of training, and is planned to begin in Fall 2019 and then available quarterly and as requested.

**Response to recommendation 6 in *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story*:**

In February 2019, the government announced a review of the current youth justice system in Manitoba and its connections to the child welfare system, with the aim of ending cycles of crime for at-risk youth. A team of senior staff from Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Families will report back to government, with recommendations and an implementation plan to be made public later in 2019/20.

Significant progress has been made in this work and the review team has completed an analysis on leading practices throughout the country. In addition, the review team has assessed several pieces of legislation, including The Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act (Alberta) and The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act (Alberta) as recommended by MACY in previous reports, as well as The Child, Youth and Family Services Act (Ontario).

Upon completion of the review, the departments will collaborate with MHSAL to implement recommendations, align with recommendations in the Virgo report and pursue opportunities for legislative changes as appropriate.

**(continued below)**

**Analysis of Manitoba Government's Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:**

**Activities Completed:**

- Response to recommendation #5 in *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* identifies that Part 1 of this recommendation aligns with the Virgo report, and it is anticipated that this will be addressed through the implementation planning process.
  - Refers to information provided in Circling Star Recommendation 4 regarding the decentralization of AFM youth counsellors to 9 community-based organization to improve access.
- Response to recommendation #5 in *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* identifies that Part 2 of this recommendation aligns with findings from the Tracia's Trust research report, which also identifies the importance of specialized placements to support sexually exploited youth. Feedback is still being sought, with the expected result of a draft plan to inform the next steps of the strategy.
- Response to recommendation #6 in *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* identifies that the review of the justice system and its connection with child welfare will include recommendations as related to this issue.
  - Part of this review has included assessing legislation as recommended by MACY such as *Alberta's Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* and the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act*, as well as Ontario's *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*.
- Response to recommendation #6 in *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* indicates that "Upon completion of the review, the departments will collaborate with MHSAL to implement recommendations, align with recommendations in the Virgo report and pursue opportunities for legislative changes as appropriate."

**Level of Compliance**

This response does not provide enough information to determine when or how the intent of this recommendation will be met.

**Analysis of Response**

- As this response progresses, helpful information with would include:
  - Details surrounding the progress of reforming treatment programs, and an overall addictions and mental health strategy for children and youth in Manitoba.
  - Details on addictions treatment resources that are being developed for sexually exploited youth in Manitoba.
- It is evident from the committee's responses that there are a number of reviews underway that need to be completed in order for strategic plans to be developed, and specific issues to be addressed, especially as they relate to addictions and mental health for children and youth.
- It is promising that legislation from other jurisdictions has been reviewed.
- To be addressed in the short term:
  - Status of implementation
  - Information indicating a timeline for implementation
  - Further information on whether this recommendation will be addressed directly or if other opportunities for addressing the intent of this recommendation with alternate activities will be pursued.



\*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government's MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government's progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government's responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.