

For Immediate Release



Parent Volunteer Honoured

(Winnipeg, May 3, 2008) – Plum Coulee Advisory Council volunteer, Grace Penner, was presented *the Judy Aiken Memorial Award* by Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) at its *Back to Basics* Annual General Meeting and Conference held May 2 and 3 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.

Ms. Penner has been involved in the Plum Coulee Advisory Council for over six years, acting as chairperson, co-chairperson, and treasurer. Ms. Penner is known to be a tireless worker with limitless energy and enthusiasm while advocating for active parental involvement both in the school as well as on the advisory council. She is credited with organizing a *“Welcome Wagon”* for new families at the school, with a special emphasis on English as an Additional Language (EAL). Over the years, she has taken on the responsibility for the operation of many special events which were previously organized by the school staff due to a previous lack of parental involvement.

“She truly appreciates the staff at her school and looks for ways to show that appreciation and ways to strengthen the relationship between home and school for all families,” states the Plum Coulee Advisory Council about Ms. Penner. “Her desire to make immigrant families feel welcome and be part of the school community is just one example of her heart for people,”

Nominees Lois McLennan (*Joseph Teres Parent Teacher Council, River East Transcona School Division*), Teresa Loucks (*Henderson School Parent Council, Mountain View School Division*) and Dawn Wahl (*Belmont Parent Association, Seven Oaks School Division*), were also congratulated for their valuable contributions.

The Judy Aiken Memorial Award was established in 2004 to honour the memory of Judy Aiken - a long standing member of the Manitoba Home and School Parent Teacher Federation which later became MAPC. Ms. Aiken’s family and MAPC established the award to recognize exceptional individuals who, through their actions and efforts on behalf of their school parent associations, have made a significant contribution to their school community.

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Naomi Kruse, Administrative Officer
Manitoba Association of Parent Councils
Email: mapc1@mts.net Phone: (204) 956-1770 or 1-877-290-4702