

For Immediate Release



Parent Volunteer Honoured

(Winnipeg, April 23, 2010) – École Garden Grove Parent Council volunteer, Sonia Omer, was posthumously awarded the *Judy Aiken Memorial Award* by Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) at its Annual Banquet on April 23, 2010 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Omer passed away in December 2009 and was nominated by the École Garden Grove Parent Council. She was an active member of her parent council and school community for seven years, serving as a participant and executive member of the council in addition to her duties as a lunch monitor and active community member. Mrs. Omer was well known and liked in the school community and was recognized for always putting children first and making herself available on a moment's notice to work on fundraising initiatives and safety concerns within the school. These actions were even more appreciated in light of her health struggles prior to her death.

"All of the work that Sonia did was incredible because she was battling breast cancer the whole time and never gave up on her commitments and her passion for a strong, healthy school for all of our children to attend," states Rob Pollok, École Garden Grove Parent Council member. "Her dedication to the Parent Council and the community is a testament of her efforts and belief in a strong school with a strong community."

Nominees Dayna Kerlake (*Kelsey Community School Parent Council, Kelsey School Division*), Lesley Owen (*Gladstone Elementary School Parent Advisory Council, Pine Creek School Division*) and Nancy Winniki (*École Beausejour Early Years Parent Advisory Council, Sunrise 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.

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