

MEDIA RELEASE

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September 16, 2008

Winnifred Stewart makes history advocating for people with disabilities

Her story to be part of Maverick Exhibit

Edmonton, AB - Winnifred Stewart Association is thrilled to announce their own founder, Winnifred Stewart, has been labeled an Alberta “maverick” and will be represented in the upcoming *It’s My History Too!* exhibition at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Inspired by the *Mavericks: An incorrigible history of Alberta* gallery, the *It’s My History Too!* exhibit will open in 2010 to tell the unknown history and stories of Albertans with disabilities.

It’s My History Too! is a project facilitated by the Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute in Calgary, a non-profit, charitable research and service agency for people with disabilities.

“Representatives from VRRRI have met with the families of individuals who knew Mrs. Stewart to learn all about her and we are very excited and honoured that our founder will be recognized in this way,” says Larry Smook, CEO of Winnifred Stewart Association. This past June and July, 700 people voted online for their maverick of choice in the areas of education, deinstitutionalization, and community living. Three mavericks were selected by a committee formed of advocates, allies, parent advocates, scholars, and community members, based on author, Aritha van Herk’s criteria for mavericity. “There are many great leaders in this province, and we are really proud that this exhibit will recognize one of ours at the Winnifred Stewart Association,” says Larry.

In 1953, Winnifred Stewart challenged the common-held belief that children with developmental disabilities were uneducable, and she remained an advocate throughout her life for people with disabilities. She was also the first female citizen to address the government from the floor of the Alberta Legislature. She passed away in 1990, but her legacy lives on through the work of the Winnifred Stewart Association.

The Winnifred Stewart Association is an innovator in working with adults with developmental disabilities. Over the course of their adult life, individuals and their families benefit from customized programs designed to meet the diverse and changing needs of people with developmental disabilities.

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