

1950s

Flood and Polio

In both cases, people were less concerned with where these disasters came from than with what was going to happen to them.

Some of our work during the decade

- During the flood of 1950, the agency became involved in alleviating some of the problems which arose as a result of the damages caused by the flood waters. [1973 history]
- Assistance to families of polio victims 1950s



Winnipeg Free Press Archives

Polio Epidemic Sets All-Time High Mark

This year's polio epidemic has broken all records in Manitoba. Reports of five more deaths Thursday brought the death toll to 33 — three more than the 1952 death total and 13 above the peak epidemic year of 1941. But the number of deaths this year is "not too alarming considering the number of cases," Dr. M. R. Elliott, deputy minister of health, pointed out. Total cases in the province Thursday reached 1,139. In 1952, there were 30 deaths out of 841 cases. In 1941, there were 20 deaths and 1,011 cases.

RCAF Flies Iron Lungs To Winnipeg

Ten iron lungs for treatment of polio victims at King George hospital arrived in Winnipeg from Boston Wednesday night aboard an RCAF C-119 "Flying Boxcar."

Winnipeg Free Press 1950
Winnipeg Free Press Archives

Some of the more enduring memories associated with epidemic polio include woollen hot packs, admonitions from parents to avoid swimming pools, and iron lungs.
[Manitoba Historical Society]

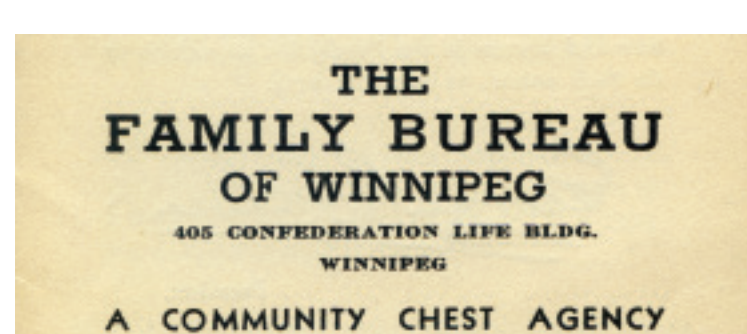
The Red River Valley disaster, as every disaster, created human needs for emergency food, clothing, medical care, and the need to restore families to a self-sustaining basis... The dislocation of such a large number of families uncovered many other problems, and it has created many others which have not only financial but emotional bases.
[1950 annual report]



A negative pressure ventilator, more commonly known as an "iron lung", helped polio patients breathe normally.
image contributed by Steve and Mary DeGenaro to the American Association for Respiratory Care's Virtual Museum.

Celebrating 80 years of empowering families and communities: 1936–2016!

Our logos over the years



1936

Family Services of Winnipeg Inc.



1976

The Family Centre®
Where families come first!

1992

Family DYNAMICS

2012