

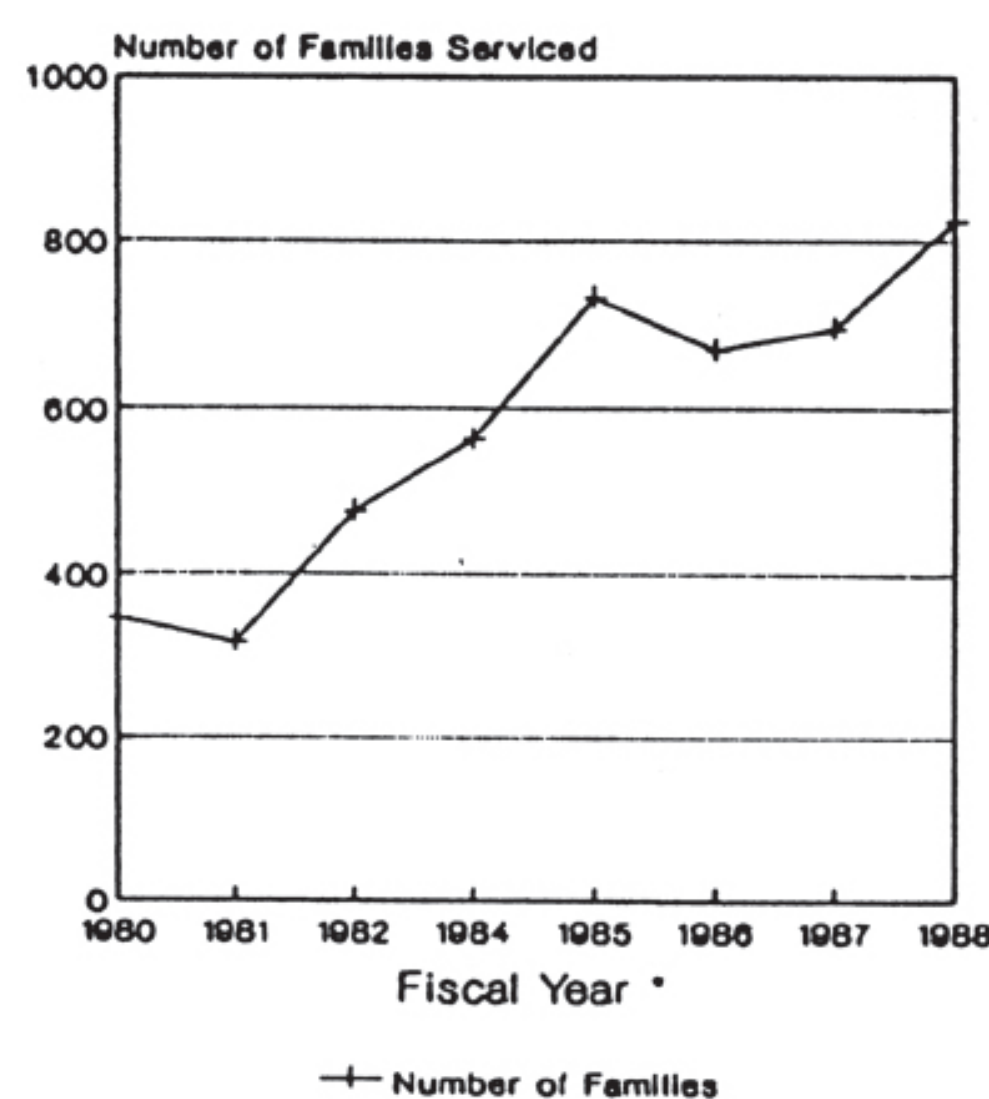
# 1980s

## Assault and Domestic Abuse

We continued to respond to community challenges on topics such as sexuality, anger and women.

### Some of our work during the decade

- Hosted first Family Service Canada Conference 1982
- Established Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide counselling services to help with personal, family, or work-related concerns 1984
- Expanded work with abused women and abusing men, and began anger management groups 1984
- National Family Week launched, encouraging families to spend quality time together 1985
- Piloted "Off-Hour Child Care" 1986
- Family Centre inside workers become unionized 1986



Homemaker services 1980s

### Wife-abuse cases net legal logjam

By Greg Pindera

There were more arrests arising from domestic disputes last week than any other crime, and at least 100 men will be charged this month with beating their wives, police say.

However, legal and social workers agree domestic violence is not a growing phenomenon.

Instead, the problem is now coming out from behind closed doors and into the public realm, particularly since 1985, when the former NDP government instructed police to automatically lay charges.

While wife battering is recognized as a crime, justice officials are in a quandary as they try to deal with a complex issue involving a personal and economic relationship with a past and possibly a future.

This week a woman who had twice refused to come to court to testify against her common-law husband showed up in court and said she didn't want to proceed.

The charges were dropped and the man accused of beating her walked away unpunished.

Justice officials recognize the problem of getting a victim — who

almost always is the only witness — to testify, and government sources say the Attorney General's Department is in the midst of an extensive review of the entire procedure.

But even when a woman follows through with a case against her husband, the sentence handed down may be so small that her months of trouble seem wasted.

For example, a man who pleaded guilty last week to assault, causing bodily harm in a brutal attack on his cancer-ridden wife was given a \$400 fine and ordered to seek counselling — because he was a first

offender.

That sentence, imposed by a visibly angered provincial court judge, was criticized by Judy Wasylcia-Leis, the NDP critic for the status of women.

"Women in this province have every right to wonder why an assault of this magnitude warrants such a paltry fine," Wasylcia-Leis said.

However, the penalty came as no surprise to the men and women who work daily prosecuting accused wife batterers and counselling the victims.

Winnipeg Free Press 1988

Winnipeg Free Press Archives

*If you provide a nurturing environment, children learn to feel good about themselves.*

*The Employee Assistance Program provides confidential information, assessment, referral and counselling services to employees and their families. The program generates revenue from contracts with employers, and these are re-invested in our not-for-profit services.*



## 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