

# **Manitoba Government** **NEWS RELEASE**



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## **SATANIC CULTS FOCUS OF PROVINCIAL INSERVICE**

Ritual abuse and youth involvement in satanic cults will be the topic for a provincial government inservice, believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, November 29 - 30 in Winnipeg, Health Minister Donald W. Orchard has announced.

"Investigation has revealed that children and adolescents who have been victimized by ritual abuse, and the active involvement of troubled children and teens in satanic cult activities can leave significant emotional scars which may form the basis for mental health disorders," said Orchard.

"It is important the government receive accurate information and strike new strategies regarding the identification, assessment and treatment of children and adolescents involved in satanic cult activity."

Professionals providing youth services in the departments of Health, Family Services, Education and Training, and Justice will attend the inservice which will co-ordinate the training of government staff from a cross-departmental perspective. A limited number of observers from the police, RCMP, and clergy will also be invited to attend.

Speakers include some of the top experts in North America: Dr. George Fraser, Director of the Anxiety and Phobic Disorders Clinic, Royal Ottawa Hospital; detectives Wilson and Wickersham of the Denver Police Department; Louise Edwards, Registered Clinical Counsellor, B.C.; and local speakers giving psychiatry, police, counselling and pastoral perspectives.

- 30 -

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