

Manitoba Health Professional Associations Coalition (MHPAC) **2023 Electoral Questionnaire**

1. What and who do you see as part of the publicly funded health system across Manitoba?

The importance of our publicly funded health system cannot be overstated, and that is why our government has invested almost \$2 Billion more per year than the NDP ever did. That is building both physical and staffing capacity, because the health system is not just beds and equipment, it is Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals, dedicated admin and support staff, healthcare is a team effort. We are committed to ensuring all Manitobans have access to the care that they deserve.

2. How will you invest in preventative care and coordinating services impacting all the social determinants to optimize health and improve the wellness of all Manitobans?

We are incredibly proud to lead the nation in providing Diabetes Pump & Glucose Monitor Coverage to All eligible Manitobans, regardless of age. This is a great example of a program that seeks to invest in Manitobans early, realizing that assisting with preventative care not only increases quality of life but limits individuals reliance on the health system in more dramatic ways. We are eager to work with experts to find additional ways to bring this proactive strategy to other health categories.

3. How would you address retention and recruitment in the health system? Any additional supports for rural and remote areas?

In 2009 the Canadian Nursing Association predicted that Canada would be short 60,000 RNs by 2022, and unfortunately they were accurate. If the NDP had adopted our recruitment and retention strategies in 2009 when the CNA released their report we would have had over 3,000 more nurses in place during the pandemic. We are addressing that with our Health Human Resources Action Plan, as well as actively recruiting 2,000 doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals with an investment of \$200 million. Recently we have recruited 150 doctors, including 50 in rural communities, and 50 for Northern Manitoba.

Rural healthcare is a special focus and our government recognizes that you do not service a community by incentivizing urban healthcare workers into rural communities. You create care for a career by training local individuals to care for their community, which we are now doing- giving Manitobans access to career training and rural community's local healthcare workers.

4. How would you involve health professionals in decision making for changes that impact the health system, and which professionals would you involve?

Healthcare experts are not only at the table for decision making, but they are leading the conversation. Dr. Ed Buchel and Dr. Peter MacDonald have been updating Manitobans on the work of the Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force regularly. This task force has been eliminating backlogs, and now is tackling waiting lists. Their experts include doctors, representatives from the Nursing Council, and Provincial Specialty leads in their respective fields for a multidisciplinary approach. In addition, there are representatives from frontline services on the Task Force Steering Committee. If any Manitoba health care worker has insight to offer the taskforce, I encourage them to reach out, because all perspectives are important.

5. What is the action plan for the continued movement of professions into the Regulated Health Professions Act?

We are committed to working with regulated health associations to bring everyone within one framework. This will not only dramatically reduce red tape, it will ensure Manitobans continue to get the care they deserve. We are ensuring this through the Regulated Health Professions Act, which has been a priority for our government. That is why we passed Bill 17, which expands the ability of our Minister of Health to facilitate this process.