

**Green Party of Manitoba Response to
Questionnaire from the Manitoba Health Professional Associations Coalition (MHPAC)**
16 June 2023 (Revised 18 June 2023)

Responses to be emailed to mhpacoalition@gmail.com

List of Questions:

1. What and who do you see as part of the publicly funded health system across Manitoba?
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?
3. How would you address retention and recruitment in the health system? Any additional supports for rural and remote areas?
4. How would you involve health professionals in decision making for changes that impact the health system, and which professionals would you involve?
5. What is the action plan for the continued movement of professions into the Regulated Health Professions Act?

Our Responses:

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

We see the very wide spectrum of individuals, professions, and institutions as essential parts of the publicly funded health system. This begins with individual Manitobans, both patients and patients' family members, who are at the very heart of healthcare. Next are the healthcare professionals, across the entire range of expertise areas and specialties, including nurses, therapists (physical, occupational, respiratory, psychological, etc.), physician assistants, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, dentists, physicians, technicians, aides, and trainees. Institutions and organizations, including small clinics, hospitals, government departments and agencies, and research and training centres at our Universities and colleges, as well as our public K-12 schools, play key parts in our publicly funded health system.

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?*

Preventative care and an understanding of the root causes, so-called social determinants of health, are fundamental pillars of our platform. In our *Health and Healthcare Foundation Policy*, we clearly articulate that we need to differentiate "health" from "healthcare", with significant attention paid to upstream approaches to ensuring Manitobans are healthy, first and foremost. At least 10% of our total health budget should be allocated to health prevention, including both physical and mental health.

We firmly believe that the key is that we address poverty, one of the most important determinants of health. Implementing Basic Income is essential to this, something we've advocated for many years. This in turn would address our chronic issues of homelessness, addiction and crime, key predictors of individual and community health. We also believe it's extremely important that we respect and put into practice Indigenous wisdom, as we have

much to learn from our Indigenous sisters and brothers. Finally, we must continuously work in the context of the Climate Emergency which has profound impacts on our health.

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

A key to any organization is the recruitment and retention of its personnel. We must begin by engaging those health professionals and show our respect to them. We must have plenty of opportunities for health professionals and their representing organizations to ensure their safety and highest levels of career satisfaction. Although, ideally incentives to retain personnel should not be necessary, we recognize that they are often required - be they compensation, flexible time, vacations, and other benefits. We must ensure that these are provided to our health professionals. Absolutely, we need to work much, much harder to provide health services in our rural and remote areas of the province. Incentives to trainees should be made available, such as subsidized, even fully paid, tuition to attract health profession graduates to practice in those areas.

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

It's critical that health professionals be actively involved in decision making. All professionals should be involved, covering all fields, both as individuals and through their representing organizations. Regularly scheduled and ad hoc communications processes should be readily available, through to the highest levels of government. One or more Citizen Assemblies on Health and Healthcare in Manitoba should be organized, seeking participation from health professionals, researchers and other experts but also from the general public, particularly from the Indigenous community, to ensure a wide range of perspectives and experiences are shared. Regular town halls should be a part, both conducted for and within the system and also for the general public. There should be open lines of communication and acceptance/protection to "whistle blowers", in those unfortunate circumstances where communications break down.

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

We are not familiar with this Act and will endeavor to familiarize ourselves with it. As such we have no action plan addressing your concern at this time. We do believe though that government regulation is a very important part of ensuring safety and highest levels of professionalism in any field, especially critical in health and healthcare.

Prepared by and On Behalf of the Green Party of Manitoba Leadership Team:
Dennis Bayomi, M.Sc. (Community Health Sciences)
Co-Deputy Leader and Health Critic

Janine G. Gibson, Leader
Nicolas Geddert, Co-Deputy Leader
Donovan McIntosh, Co-Deputy Leader