

July 7, 2015

MANITOBANS ASKED FOR INPUT ON PREARRANGED FUNERAL SERVICES REGULATION

The provincial government is inviting Manitoba funeral home owners and managers, funeral directors, industry-related support organizations, consumer associations, and citizens to have their say on a draft regulation related to *The Prearranged Funeral Services Act*.

Once in effect, *The Prearranged Funeral Services Act* regulation will enhance protection for Manitobans who purchase prearranged funeral plans by:

- allowing contract cancellation for up to 10 days without penalty;
- requiring payment be made directly to a trust or insurance company to ensure the money is available when needed;
- making it an offence to exert undue pressure, take advantage of a person's inability to understand a plan, make a sale knowing the person is unable to pay or misrepresent a service as a legal requirement or a cemetery rule;
- giving the Funeral Board of Manitoba inspection and disciplinary powers; and
- increasing fines for offences.

In addition, individuals who are licensed to sell prearranged funeral plans will also have to abide by a code of ethics that will be put in place.

The consultation document and the draft regulation are available by selecting the "Consultation" tab at: www.gov.mb.ca/funeraldirectorsboard/index.

Submissions to the consultation will be accepted until August 1, 2015.