

## BACKGROUND

---

The September 2000 *First Ministers' Meeting Communiqué on Health* directed Canada's Health Ministers to collaborate on the development of a comprehensive framework to report on health status, health outcomes and quality of service using jointly agreed-upon comparable indicators. This was intended to serve several objectives by providing information to Canadians on government performance, as well as assisting individuals, governments and health care providers to make more informed health choices.

In September 2002, all 14 jurisdictions, including the federal government, released comparable indicator reports on a set of 67 indicators. This marked the first time that health ministries from all Canadian jurisdictions concurrently reported to their constituents.

The February 2003 *First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal* directed Health Ministers to develop more indicators to supplement work undertaken in response to the September 2000 Communiqué. This work was to be completed by September 2003. Before the completion date, experts and stakeholders were asked to review this work to ensure these new indicators:

- measured progress on achieving the reforms set out in the Accord; and
- met the objectives of timely access, quality, sustainability, health status and wellness.

The 2003 Health Accord identified the following priority areas for reform:

- healthy Canadians,
- primary health care,
- home care,
- catastrophic drug coverage and pharmaceutical management,
- diagnostic and medical equipment, and
- health human resources.

Federal/provincial/territorial jurisdictions agreed on 70 indicators (with 81 sub-indicators), based on requirements set out in the 2000 Communiqué and the 2003 Health Accord; input from a range of stakeholders and experts; consultation with other federal, provincial and territorial groups and the general public. Stakeholder consultations were conducted at an invitational workshop in June 2003. Further stakeholder input was solicited through written submissions. In addition, a website was created to garner public feedback. Focus group testing to obtain public feedback was undertaken in January 2004, to get opinions from Canadians about the kinds of indicators they view as important and meaningful. These focus groups were held in four Canadian cities, including Winnipeg.

This report contains information on a subset of indicators from the 2004 reporting cycle that describe two areas of particular interest to Manitobans: healthy living and citizen access to, and satisfaction with, health care. Manitoba data on the entire set of indicators from the 2004 reporting cycle is available on the Manitoba Health website [www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.html) (or [www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.fr.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.fr.html)). This same information, along with comparable information for all the provinces, territories and the federal government, is available at [www.cihi.ca/comparable-indicators](http://www.cihi.ca/comparable-indicators) (or [www.icis.ca/indicateurs-comparables](http://www.icis.ca/indicateurs-comparables)).