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**BETHESDA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE
HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT**

About Bethesda Regional Health Centre

Located in Steinbach, the main part of the existing Bethesda Regional Health Centre opened in 1963, with the last significant upgrade completed in 2014 when a new emergency department was opened. The 226,821-sq.-ft. facility currently has 73 in-patient beds and provides a vast array of health services to a growing community including surgery, diagnostics and a number of outpatient services.

Bethesda is operated by Southern Health-Santé Sud, which is the fastest growing health region in the province. Approximately 212,000 people are served by the region, up 14,000 in the past five years.

About Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan

Initially unveiled in 2019, *Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan* will guide improvements to access, quality and patient outcomes for all Manitobans. Developed with the extensive input of health-care professionals, communities and members of the public, the plan represents the first time that clinical providers have contributed to a provincial plan that will meet the unique needs of Manitoba communities.

The plan uses resources in smarter and more modern ways, using a network of hubs that are staffed and equipped to meet the needs of Manitoba patients. As a result of these investments, Manitobans will:

- wait less, with improved access to specialized services, mental health supports and care for chronic illnesses;
- travel less, with virtual appointments to many health-care providers;
- know where to go for care, with reliable access to high quality care closer to home; and
- have quick and reliable access to life-saving care in an emergency.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several initiatives included in the plan were accelerated in order to support better care for Manitobans through expanded virtual care, secure online portals for test results and immunization information, and a provincial approach to increasing surgical and critical care capacity.

Projects already announced as part of Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan include:

- the \$70-million expansion and renovation of the Brandon Regional Health Centre and Western Manitoba Cancer Centre; and
- construction of a \$283-million, two-storey hospital in Portage la Prairie that offers more inpatient beds, expanded medical and surgical capacity and a modern emergency department.

These projects build on Manitoba's commitment to improving health-care facilities across the province in recent years, with previous infrastructure investments including construction of the new HSC Women's and Selkirk Regional Health Centre, as well as new emergency departments in Flin Flon, Dauphin and at Winnipeg's Grace and St. Boniface hospitals.