



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

March 3, 2020

Honourable Cameron Friesen
Minister of Health Seniors and Active Living
302 – 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Colleague:

The people of Manitoba have given us the honour of a second mandate to move Manitoba forward. Our commitments are clear and ambitious.

All Ministers will work as a team to achieve the Five Point Guarantee as set out in our 2019 platform. We will work hard to create 40,000 new jobs, reduce taxes and invest in a health care system that delivers better care sooner. We will complete the construction of 20 new schools to provide better environments for our children to learn. We will deliver our Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan to achieve our vision of the cleanest, greenest and most climate resilient province.

We will build a better, more efficient, responsive and open government that provides quality services to communities throughout Manitoba.

Manitobans deserve a government that reflects their values: honesty, integrity and a commitment to hard work. I expect all ministers to work as a team to achieve our platform commitments and to hold themselves to the highest ethical standards. Manitoba became the most improved province in Canada in our first term. That record of achievement and success will provide a strong foundation for an equally ambitious second mandate. We are a government that keeps its word. We have a record of public trust that cannot be compromised by conflicts of interest, complacency or entitlement.

As Minister of Health, Seniors & Active Living, you will continue to build a health care system that is more:

- Focused on the patient;
- Integrated and innovative;
- Clear in its definition of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities;
- Transparent in its measurement of outcomes through performance dashboards;
- Equitable and accessible regardless of geography, cultural practices or social circumstances; and
- Sustainable for current and future generations.

To that end, you will put in place Accountability Agreements for Shared Health, CancerCare Manitoba and our Regional Health Authorities, emphasizing the need for continuous progress on reducing administrative costs, integrating them into our budgeting process and finding ways to collaborate on procurement, accommodations, and other matters of mutual interest. Above all, these mandates will provide Manitobans with better health care sooner.

Guided by the Manitoba Clinical and Preventive Services Plan, you will provide Manitobans with access to better health care closer to home, enhance home and community care, and improve clinical practices through the following enhancements:

- Investing in capital improvements to strengthen health care delivery;
- Supporting communities to work together to offer better care and more services closer to home;
- Strategically investing in modern approaches to connected care, including remote monitoring, consultation, telehealth and health records;
- Continuing investment in, and integration of diagnostics, emergency medical services, patient transport, and other support services;
- Improving alignment of public and community health services with the needs of the local population;
- Developing a comprehensive and pragmatic policy that will inform the Clinical and Preventive Services Plan and create more safe places for seniors including supportive community care options, better home care and more supportive housing;
- Continuing to solicit ideas from front line health care service providers through the Front-Line Idea Fund;
- Hiring 200 more full-time nurses and continue to fill vacancies;
- Continuing to recruit family physicians and specialists in those areas required aligned with the Manitoba Clinical and Preventive Services Plan;

- Hiring 80 more primary care EMS paramedics, adding to the complement of 148 new primary care paramedics hired since 2016;
- Advancing the redevelopment of the St. Boniface Emergency Department to strengthen Winnipeg's emergency health services;
- Allowing pharmacists to write prescriptions in areas where evidence suggests that doctor visits can be safely avoided;
- Expanding the scope of practice for health care professionals where evidence suggests it can safely improve patient outcomes and access;
- Reducing wait times for treatment of Manitobans with eating disorders;
- Developing a strategy for the prevention of women's heart disease; and
- Developing a Diabetes Prevention Strategy.

In order to bring our wait times more into line with national standards, you will take the following steps:

- Maintaining funding for the 1,000 hip and knee surgeries and the 2,000 cataract surgeries added in 2018;
- Increasing echocardiogram and ultrasound capacity and better utilize existing equipment by hiring more staff; and
- Adding capacity for 20,800 more ultrasounds in Winnipeg and 5,000 more ultrasounds in rural Manitoba.

Working with your colleagues, the Ministers of Families, Education and Justice, continue to improve the continuum of mental health and addictions services for Manitobans including:

- A sobering unit;
- A 24/7 community drop-in centre;
- More supportive recovery housing units;
- Expansion of mental health services and specialized trauma counseling for women;
- Increase mental health promotion and supports through community programs in schools;
- An additional RAAM Clinic in Southern Health; and
- Expansion of mental health services to children at Health Sciences Centre;

You will continue to work with other provincial health ministers to reverse the federal government's decision to reduce its contributions to health care, which fails to recognize the growing demands on our health care system.

You will continue to enhance Manitoba's universal, robust Pharmacare program.

Also as Minister responsible for Health, Seniors and Active Living, you will:

- Modernize the Master Agreement with Doctors Manitoba including updating medical remuneration;
- Pursue options to reduce the high cost of drugs and therapies, including a review of expanding access to Bio-similar treatments;
- Work with your colleagues to protect Manitobans from the harmful effects of smoking and cannabis use; and
- Explore ways to protect Manitobans, particularly our youth, from the effects of vaping.

You will work collaboratively with the public service, stakeholders and citizens to keep our promises. We are committed to ensuring all employees are treated with dignity and respect. There is no place for harassment of any kind in the civil service or any workplace, you must remain vigilant in ensuring there is no wrong door and not sit silent if you see others around you falling short of these standards.

We have established Ideas Funds across summary government to encourage front line service providers to come forward with innovative proposals to modernize and improve the way we deliver services Manitobans need. You will encourage your front line service providers to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Both with your department and the entities that receive our financial support, you will emphasize the need for continuous progress on spending within our budgets, reducing administrative costs and finding ways to ensure value for taxpayers' money.

As a member of Executive Council, you will continue to support our work to transform the public service, including the deployment of balanced scorecards to report on our progress and ensure Manitobans understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. As elected representatives of the people, we must always ensure that we remain transparent and accountable for our actions. Manitobans expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brian Pallister