



Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

February 14, 2024

Dr. Brian Postl, Board Chair

Shared Health Board of Directors

Dear Dr. Postl,

Manitobans have tasked our government with the responsibility to improve health care for the patients who rely on it and the front-line workers who power it.

Our government is focused on improving patient experiences in the health care system and listening to health care workers. This means reducing wait times, expanding access to community care options and offering the highest quality of care. We are committed to fixing the staffing crisis in health care by both resetting the relationship with front line workers and setting ambitious targets to hire new workers into the system.

Central to these goals is a commitment to improve the culture in our health care system by centering patients at the heart of every decision and adopting a “patient-first” mentality within the health care bureaucracy.

As the largest health authority in the province, it is imperative Shared Health is aligned with our government’s goals. As the Minister responsible for Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, I am mandating your board to do the following:

- Work with our government to embrace a culture shift that puts patients at the heart of every decision and focuses on solutions over excuses;
- Ensure resources are directed to the front lines rather than the excessive health care bureaucracy;
- Work with physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and other front-line workers to reduce wait times, improve patient experiences, support primary and preventative care and improve the overall health of Manitobans with targeted programs like CancerCare, diabetes care, women’s health, reducing child mortality and preventing youth suicide;
- Support the government in its commitment to hire 400 doctors, 300 nurses in Winnipeg (with a corresponding commitment outside the perimeter), 200 paramedics and 100 homecare workers;

- Improve care for seniors in long-term care and reduce wait times by increasing the number of staffed personal care home beds and work towards more direct hours of care for seniors;
- In light of consistent overspending, develop a plan to manage to budget and work to get on a stronger financial footing so that resources are used effectively at the bedside;
- Establish metrics and publicly report them in order to show Manitobans progress on these and other goals.

Thanks to the collaboration and expertise of Shared Health's front lines, our government has already accomplished so much—like reconnecting with hundreds of workers, adding beds to bring real relief to overstretched hospitals and redirecting funding and decision-making back to the bedside.

Fixing health care will be difficult. But it is the hardest things that matter most, and we owe it to Manitobans to deliver on these commitments. I know you and your colleagues on the board share our commitment to strengthening health care.

Original signed by:

Uzoma Asagwara
Minister of Health, Seniors and
Long-Term Care

C: Scott Sinclair, Deputy Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care