



Health Care Workers Union  
Canadian Union of Public Employees

**SENT VIA EMAIL: minhsal@leg.gov.mb.ca**

June 12, 2019

The Honourable Minister Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Health, Seniors, and Active Living  
302 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Friesen:

**RE: SEVEN OAKS GENERAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM, CONSOLIDATION PLAN**

Further to our letter dated May 16, 2019, we again implore you to reconsider the closure of the Seven Oaks General Hospital Emergency Room (ER) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU). We have yet to hear from your office.

The recent report by Dr. David Peachey emphasizes the deep impact the closure of the Concordia Hospital ER has had on staff, employee morale, and the health system as a whole. By continuing on the path of closing the Seven Oaks ER and ICU, this government is only going to make a bad plan worse.

Your government has an opportunity to prevent further chaos in the system by doing the right thing and cancelling the plan to close the Seven Oaks ER. Seven Oaks General Hospital (SOGH) support staff are scheduled to enter into the "bumping process" on June 17<sup>th</sup> in which hundreds of employees must choose new staff rotations in order to accommodate the conversion of the SOGH ER into an Urgent Care Centre. Your government should seriously consider cancelling the plan to close the Seven Oaks ER before hundreds of staff enter into this disruptive and demoralizing process.

Once we go down this path it will be very difficult to turn back time, and with morale so low we are very concerned for the well-being of our members and the impact such a negative work environment could have on employees and the hospital as a whole. The stress experienced by health care staff during this process can be debilitating.

In our letter dated May 16, 2019, we expressed our fears that the health care consolidation plan would continue to degrade staff morale and disrupt the health care system. Dr. Peachey's report confirms these fears.

Minister Friesen, we again implore you to reconsider the closure of the Seven Oaks General Hospital ER and ICU.

As always, we are available to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Debbie Boissonneault  
CUPE 204 President

The Honourable Minister Cameron Friesen

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cc: Wab Kinew, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Dougald Lamont, Leader of the Second Opposition

\***CUPE 204** represents members at: Bethania Personal Care Home, Concordia Hospital, Golden West Centennial Lodge, Grace Hospital, Health Sciences Centre, Klinik Inc., Lions Personal Care Centre, Luther Home, Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg, Mount Carmel Clinic, Nine Circles Community Health Centre, NorWest Co-op Community Health, Pembina Place Mennonite Personal Care Home, Rehabilitation Centre for Children, Seven Oaks General Hospital, Sexuality Education Resource Centre, St. Joseph's Residence, Women's Health Clinic, WRHA – Midwives, WRHA – Nutrition & Food Services – Regional Distribution Facility