

Manitoba Health Coalition

LAUNCH

On June 28, the Manitoba Health Coalition (MHC) was launched as provincial and territorial Health Ministers gathered in Winnipeg at the Fort Garry Hotel for their annual summit meeting.

As journalists and advocacy groups followed the ministers to Winnipeg, the organizers of MHC decided it was an ideal opportunity to catch the eye of media and health care organizations, and bring attention to health care issues in Manitoba.

The launch was a landmark event for the organizations – including the Manitoba Nurses Union – that worked collaboratively to form the MHC, which is a not-for-profit advocacy group governed by a board of directors. After many months of planning, MHC was finally ready to show its face and get to work on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

“I am honoured to help lead the Manitoba Health Coalition and advocate for the expansion of universal, public health care,” said Provincial Director Brianne Goertzen. “I look forward to working with our stakeholders and members of the public to raise awareness about ongoing issues and help build healthy communities.”

As Provincial Director, Goertzen brings extensive experience as a community activist, organizer, and researcher. She has worked as the Manitoba Organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students, is currently on the board of the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba, Child Care Now and serves as Vice-Chair on the Steering Committee for the CCPA-MB. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology and a Master of Arts in Sociology, and currently serves as a school trustee, representing Ward 3 in the River East-Transcona School division.

The MHC shares the values and objectives of its national affiliate, the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC). Its organizational model is reflected by its core value that health care is a public good and a fundamental right for all. Ultimately, both have a vested interest in protecting and enhancing our public health care system. The MHC and CHC are both coalitions of labour unions, faith-based groups, Indigenous organizations, and various community-oriented stakeholders that share a common belief in the five principles of medicare:

- public administration
- comprehensiveness
- universality
- portability
- accessibility

Since 1979, the CHC has advocated for the preservation and improvement of universal public health care across Canada. Over time, as certain governments have attempted to erode public access to health services, the CHC has grown to include provincial affiliates to help address issues of local and regional importance. Affiliates such as MHC work in partnership with the CHC to improve health outcomes for all Canadians through a universal, public model. This model of organization is now strengthened, as the MHC also completed the CHC’s objective of having a provincial affiliate in every province.

“We are excited to have Manitoba join as our newest provincial affiliate of the Canada Health Coalition,”



said Amanda Wilson, CHC National Director of Policy and Advocacy. “Together, we will work to strengthen and expand public health care for the benefit of all Manitobans.”

The event was also timely considering Manitoba’s changing political landscape. The provincial government’s decision to make sweeping changes to health care in Winnipeg and rural regions has prompted widespread concerns about privatization and erosion of public health care services. In many cases, changes have resulted in cuts and closures of facilities and services, which reduce public accessibility to care.

In the coming months, MHC will empower its constituent organizations and members of the public to become engaged in developing and advocating for inclusive public health care policy.

Stay tuned for more news about MHC in the weeks and months ahead!



Contact MHC

Individuals and groups are welcome to join the MHC as members.

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