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PRESS RELEASE: Manitoba Health Care Budget is Inadequate

WINNIPEG, MB – Today, the government of Manitoba released the 2020 provincial budget. The budget entitled, ‘Moving Manitoba Forward’, comes at time health care sector is rising to the challenge of COVID19.

‘This budget is insufficient to handle the current and most definitely, future health care needs.’ said Brianne Goertzen, Provincial Director of the Manitoba Health Coalition. ‘The core funding for our health care system continues to decline, and our government continues to nickel and dime health care for their own ideological purposes.’

While the government added a, ‘Covid-19 Emergency Supplement Response’ to their initial budget documents identifies some minor investments already undertaken for health care. These documents also indicates additional funds would be ready when needed with a benchmark of \$82 million that was spent during H1N1 in 2009/10.

When we look at the core 2020 budget documents it continues to cut real health care spending and Manitobans are paying the price. The budget for health care increased by 1.3% from what they are forecasted to spend this year which when inflation is accounted for, 2.5%, the real dollars going to health care is less and in fact a cut.

‘Now more than ever we need a strong, well-funded, resourced and appropriately staffed health care system not just during a crisis but everyday.’ continued Goertzen, ‘We are all in this together and much more needs to be done to ensure that our health care system will be prepared to deal with the health needs of Manitobans — during this pandemic and after it.’

The MHC is governed by a board of directors representing a variety of stakeholder organizations across Manitoba. MHC’s organizational model reflects our core values that health care is a public good and a fundamental right for all.