

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE: Manitoba Government on slippery slope towards privatization

Winnipeg, MB - Today, the Manitoba government issued a Request for Proposals for elective surgical services in Manitoba.

The announcement made by Minister Friesen is problematic and could escalate the use of for-profit clinics within our health care system further,' said Brianne Goertzen, Provincial Director of the Manitoba Health Coalition, 'Opening up to for-profit providers ignores all evidence that private health care does not work.'

The government has said the decision to make the RFP to both public and private providers was made to address wait times. At this morning's press conference, when pressed for answers, the Minister was unable to provide evidence illustrating the necessity of this direction. Government has not presented any evidence that publicly capacity has been exhausted – indeed it seems to be asking public and private sector simultaneously. We are worried that at a time when we need health care professionals to help catch up on delayed surgeries, that this decision will pull more of these professionals out of the public system and put even greater strain on our public health system as we recover from the pandemic.

'Our government has an opportunity to directly invest in our public system and to implement proven innovations that will make our public system stronger and more resilient now and into the future.' continued Goertzen, 'What we do not need is a government that is keen on paving the way towards further privatization, and a two-tiered system of care that endangers the foundational pillars of our health care.'

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.

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