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**PRESS RELEASE: Manitoba Health Coalition Fears Privatization at the Expense of Older Adults**

Winnipeg, MB – Today, the government of Manitoba delivered their speech from the throne marking the beginning of a new legislative session.

‘Buried behind the bluster and self-congratulatory messaging are deeply troubling changes to our health care,’ said Brianne Goertzen, Provincial Director of the Manitoba Health Coalition, ‘It appears further privatization is on the horizon and it will be older adults and vulnerable people who will pay the price.’

The world is in the midst of a global health pandemic and Manitoba is currently seeing an unsettling rise in COVID19 cases, test positivity rates and hospitalizations. The pandemic has laid bare the fatal consequences of private, for-profit long term care. And while the rest of Canada is looking critically at private, for-profit providers role in long term care and home care our government is keen on expanding it, placing older adults at risk.

‘While the coalition supports the call for additional federal dollars in the health care, we cannot support Pallister’s plans to further privatize care for older adults and vulnerable persons.’ Continued Goertzen, ‘If Pallister is in fact concerned about the health care services for older adults he needs to meaningfully invest in publically funded and operated home care and long term care services.’

The Manitoba Health Coalition is a non-partisan, non-profit organization fighting for the preservation and expansion of universal public health care.