

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE: MANITOBA HEALTH COALITION WELCOMES NEW HEALTH MINISTERS

Winnipeg, MB –The Manitoba Health Coalition would like to extend our congratulations to Hon. Heather Stefanson on her appointment as Minister of Health and Seniors Care, and to the Hon. Audrey Gordon as Minister of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery.

‘We congratulate Hon. Heather Stefanson and Hon. Audrey Gordon on their recent appointments.’ Said Brianne Goertzen, Provincial Director of Manitoba Health Coalition, ‘Given the current state of our health care system, and the challenge of the pandemic, there is no time for them to waste.’

As the pandemic has made it clear that strong public health care is not just necessary but critical in the health and well-being of Manitobans and our economy. We urge Hon. Stefanson to re-invest in Manitoba’s health care system after years of cuts that left our health care system unprepared for COVID-19.

The Manitoba Health Coalition continues to call for a Seniors Advocate to ensure we have comprehensive, inclusive, and responsive seniors supports in Manitoba. The horrific COVID-19 outbreaks in Manitoba’s personal care homes clearly demonstrates the need to legislate increased staffing ratios to ensure better quality care for residents, and improved working conditions for health care workers. Further, the horrific outbreaks and response in Manitoba’s private, for-profit PCH’s has revealed that we cannot afford for-profit long-term care in Manitoba. It’s time for our government to act and end for-profit long-term care in Manitoba.

We are hopeful that the creation of the new Ministry of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery, signals this government is going to meaningfully commit itself to investing in mental health and addictions supports. We would urge Minister Gordon to invest in public addiction and mental health supports, as Manitoba continues to severely lag behind the national average on supports and resources.

Both Hon. Stefanson and Hon. Gordon have an opportunity to do right by Manitobans and ensure proper funding, staffing, and resourcing is in place in our health care system, seniors care and mental health and addictions. Our lives, quite literally, depend on it.

The Manitoba Health Coalition is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of public health care. Our membership is comprised of a variety of stakeholders including nurses, health care workers, anti-poverty groups, academics, concerned citizens and trade unions.

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