

**April 27, 2021
For Immediate Release**

PRESS RELEASE: Manitoba Health Coalition joins Canada-wide call for National Long-Term Care Standards

Today, the Manitoba Health Coalition, alongside Canadians for Long-Term Care, and fellow provincial health coalitions will hold a virtual day of action across Canada protesting the failure of our national and provincial governments to set national standards for long-term care.

‘The pandemic has exemplified the long-standing systemic issues plaguing the LTC sector, that MHC and fellow advocates have been sounding the alarm on for years.’ said Brianne Goertzen, Provincial Director, Manitoba Health Coalition, ‘Now, more than ever we need national standards that put people before profits through the removal of for-profit care, and ensures dignified quality care and accountability.’

The national day of action follows March 22, 2021, public release of the health coalitions’ legal opinion substantiating a legislative framework to make national long-term care standards a reality. To date, the issue of jurisdiction has been cited by both the provincial and the federal government as a tactic to deflect responsibility to take meaningful steps to change the conditions of LTC. The [legal opinion](#) addresses these concerns and sets out a proposal for a commitment from the federal government to provide ongoing funding for long-term care with clear criteria requiring the provinces to improve quality, accountability and take the profit out of seniors’ care.

‘The pandemic has been gut-wrenchingly devastating across Canada. Manitobans are tired of the excuses and empty platitudes, we are demanding action now on long-term care standards. We must address the root causes of the long term care crisis by ensuring funding is tied to the principles of public administration; comprehensiveness; universality; accessibility; portability; quality; accountability and non-profit/public care. Anything less is unacceptable.’

As a country, we have a moral obligation to the people who have passed, those still living and those working in long-term care homes across Canada to finally ensure that this tragedy is never repeated. Today, Manitoba Health Coalition stands with allies Canada-wide to call on our government to finally ensure all aging Canadians and those requiring care have access to the quality care they need and deserve and implement long-term care standards now.