

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA:

The background to this petition is as follows:

1. On August 21, 2020, the Prairie Mountain Health Region (PMHR) announced that Roblin, Manitoba's diagnostic services would be closing due to staff shortages in Russell, Manitoba effective September 1st, 2020.
2. The Roblin District Health Centre's Emergency Room (ER) will close on September 4th, 2020 due to the inaction of both the PMHR and the Provincial Government as it relies on onsite diagnostic services to respond to emergent cases.
3. The PMHR and the Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living have failed to post and fill vacancies which has resulted in vacancy rates at the Russell Diagnostic Service Centre to reach 60 per cent.
4. Following the announced closure of diagnostic services, the Roblin Clinic Board worked to recruit two lab technicians only to find that the PMHR was going to station them in Russell, MB instead.
5. The closure of diagnostic services and the ER is a greater concern amidst a pandemic of COVID-19, where the PMHR finds itself at higher risk.
6. The consolidation of diagnostic services and emergency services will force Roblin, MB residents and residents of surrounding regions, many of whom are part of an aging population, and/or have no means of transportation available to them, to travel up to an hour to access simple blood tests and emergent acute care.
7. Consolidations within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority have already resulted in compromised patient care, increased wait times, and a failure to keep care close to home.
8. The removal of emergency services further deters economic development in the community and may force many residents to leave.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the Provincial Government to abandon its cuts and closures to diagnostic and emergency services in Roblin, Manitoba and abandon its Phase 2 plans of cuts and consolidations throughout rural Manitoba.

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