





MESSAGE FROM MANITOBA NDP LEADER WAB KINEW

As a parent, I know what it's like to worry about a sick kid at night. When there's nothing else you can do to make your child feel better, you have to make a hard decision: spend a sleepless night at home or drive to the hospital.

Right now in Manitoba, our health care system is so overwhelmed the only place for families to go at night, or even after business hours, is a crowded ER. Years of PC health care cuts have stretched our hospitals to a breaking point and hallway medicine has returned to Manitoba. Doctors, nurses and health care staff have spoken out to warn Manitobans about the impact of cuts. We've lost valuable nurses and frontline health care staff who are tired of being disrespected by the Pallister and Stefanson PC governments. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Your family deserves quality health care that runs on family-friendly hours and the peace of mind that comes from dedicated health care workers who have the time to give you their full attention. That's why we're committing to a pilot project that would expand morning and evening ACCESS Centre hours for primary care and the walk-in clinic at the Grace Hospital from 6am – 12am. It's an immediate solution to our current health care crisis and a long-term investment in better care for your family.

Whether you're caring for small children or aging parents, the reality is our loved ones get sick outside of business hours. This investment would mean more health care staff, including nurse practitioners, nurses, physicians' assistants and family doctors working in our system. It's the first step to fixing health care in Manitoba.

Let's build a healthier Manitoba.

Wab Kinew Leader of the Manitoba NDP



The PCs have made devastating cuts to primary care that have impacted families in Kirkfield Park and across the province. These cuts have made it harder for families to access doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners, often leaving families with no other option but the ER.

PC CUTS TO PRIMARY CARE

- X Kirkfield Park Quick Care Clinic
- X St. Boniface Quick Care Clinic
- **X** Southdale Quick Care Clinic
- **Burrows Quick Care Clinic**
- X St. Vital Quick Care Clinic
- **X** Corydon Primary Care Clinic
- **St. Boniface Family Medical Centre**
- Out-patient physiotherapy
- ★ Thompson Foot Care Clinic
- Mature Women's Centre at Victoria General Hospital
- **▼** Mobile Breast Cancer Screening

A new report from Doctor's Manitoba shows our province has the lowest number of physicians per capita in Canada and it's about to get worse. Doctors' Manitoba reports that 43% of doctors plan on leaving the profession, retiring or reducing their hours in the next 3 years because of systemic issues in our health care system.

The PCs decision to close ERs, cut over 150 hospital beds and fire nurses created chaos in the health care system that is forcing doctors out of the profession. Their cut to out-patient physiotherapy has caused worse outcomes for seniors and Manitobans recovering from surgery. They closed the Thompson footcare clinic resulting in worse outcomes for seniors and Manitobans living with diabetes. And doctors have pointed out that the PCs inability to make significant progress on the surgery and diagnostic backlog is making Manitobans sicker.

What does this mean for families? If you or your loved one gets sick waiting for hours in a crowded, a chaotic ER might be the only option. We have to do better.



These cuts to preventative health care have led to a crisis in our ERs. Patients present with more acute issues and in greater distress. Under Premier Heather Stefanson the crisis in our health care system has grown worse. ER wait times are the highest on record. And patients waited much longer for care in September and August of 2022 than they did a year before when Brian Pallister was Premier.

Premier Stefanson has denied her party made health care cuts. But the experiences of patients and frontline health care staff tell a different story. Reports from the frontlines tell us seniors and trauma victims are waiting hours and sometimes days in hallways. Patients are waiting in pain while nurses scramble to fill the demands left by vacant positions. Frontline health care workers are speaking out, calling the situation in Winnipeg hospitals "dire" and "unprecedented."

Nurses are leaving the profession at alarming rates – and we have to get them back. Nowhere is this more evident than the Grace hospital, where 13 nurses have left their jobs in just the last few months. Instead of caring for patients the way they want to, nurses tell us they are scrambling to fill the gaps left by years of PC cuts. They report that staff-to-patient ratios are consistently at dangerously low levels. Nurses are tired of being asked to work overtime every week, missing out on time with their own families because the PCs refuse to fix health care.

"St. Boniface Family Medicine Centre to close in July" (CBC, March 2, 2019)

"Clinic closure causing worry for clients" (WFP, Nov 20, 2017)

"WRHA to close four QuickCare Clinics" (WFP, July 12, 2017)

"Manitoba nurses post Twitter SOS amid Grace Hospital ICU staff shortage" (Global, Oct 12, 2022)

"Grace cancels more than two dozen orthopedic surgeries" (WFP, Oct 21, 2022)

"Overcrowded Grace Hospital emergency room 'at the breaking point,' nurse says" (CBC, Sept 12, 2022)

"ER experience shakes faith in health care system" (WFP, July 18, 2022)

"Opposition calls on Manitoba gov't to shore up Grace hospital after nurse shares concerns about patient care" (CBC, May 18, 2021)

While our public health care system collapses, Premier Heather Stefanson is spending \$40 million on private agency nurses costing the province more money, instead of rebuilding trust with nurses in the public system.

It's simple. Fewer community care options and a primary care shortage means crowded and chaotic ERs with patients who are sicker and who are more likely to be admitted for intense care.



Our plan to expand the Grace ACCESS clinic hours to 6am – 12am is the first step to fixing health care in Manitoba. It means families with common illnesses and minor injuries can avoid the ER and get care as soon as they need it. It means families have easy access to flu shots and COVID vaccines to keep them safe. It means you don't have to wait months to find a family doctor to get the prescription you need today.

This is one solution we can implement right away that will start to fix the damage the PCs have caused. Our plan would lessen the strain on ERs and bring nurses back into the system who are looking for worklife balance and a less stressful workplace. With the option of faster care, Manitobans won't wait to seek medical attention but will get the diagnosis and treatment they need right away leading to better health outcomes and reducing future stress on our health care system.

Our plan relies on the expert and quality care of Nurse Practitoners who are key to fixing health care and addressing the wait list for primary care. Like all frontline health care staff, there has been a quiet exodus of Nurse Practitoners after years of mistreatment by the PCs. To sustainably increase hours at ACCESS centres we need to expand the number of Nurse Practitoner seats, hire more NPs throughout the province and ensure Nurse Practitoners are represented at the board level of service delivery organizations like Shared Health.



We estimate this pilot project will cost \$1 million, and we plan to expand the program across Winnipeg, in Brandon and in rural, Northern communities. The expansion of ACCESS clinics across the province could be a way to draw internationally trained health care nurses to rural and Northern communities. Expanding ACCESS hours alongside resetting the relationship with nurses and nurse practitoners, investing in health care and expanding bed capacity will keep families healthy and allow frontline health care workers to focus on what they love – caring for Manitobans.



Over the last six years we've put forward solutions to fix the damage the PCs have done and create healthier families, safer communities and a more resilient health care system. Our pilot program builds on previous NDP Alternative Throne Speech commitments to expand hospital beds (2017), address the addictions crisis (2018), invest in community safety (2019), hire more nurses and improve seniors care (2020), and expand ICU capacity (2021).

We saw throughout the pandemic that Manitobans had some of worse health outcomes in North America and we know that child poverty, education, lack of access to safe, affordable housing and nutritious food are barriers to good health and well-being. That's why we've committed to universal nutrition programs in every school, safe consumption sites and a plan to end chronic homelessness within two terms.

Unlike the PCs who put billionaires ahead of regular Manitobans, an NDP government would help keep life affordable for families by freezing hydro rates and addressing the rising cost of groceries so families can put healthy food on the table.

We believe government has a role to play in making life affordable and keeping communities safe so that every Manitoban can live with dignity.



A recent report from Canadian Institute for Health Information shows that Manitoba is on track to spend below the national average on health care in 2022. The Manitoba NDP believes that with smart investments in preventative primary care like expanding ACCESS center hours at the Grace hospital, we can improve outcomes, provide good jobs to nurses and nurse practitioners and save money in the long run.

Our solution starts with the Grace Hospital and builds from there to expand ACCESS clinics across the province. If we have the opportunity to form government in the next election, we will expand the hours of ACCESS clinics across Winnipeg, in rural areas and Northern communities so every family can get care when they need it.

The Manitoba NDP has a plan to end hallway medicine and give your family the health care you need. It will take years to fix the damage the PCs have caused in our health care system but we have to start now.

The NDP built our public health care system. And only the NDP can be trusted to fix it.

We're ready to get to work and fix health care.