

PARTY LEADER SURVEY ON PALLIATIVE CARE

Manitoba provincial election 2019



QUESTIONS

Dougald Lamont
Manitoba Liberal Party

Wab Kinew
Manitoba NDP

Brian Pallister
Manitoba PC

<p>Manitoba currently has one of the lowest residential hospice bed ratios in the country with only 0.8 beds/100,000 residents. If elected, would you increase the number of residential hospice beds in Manitoba within the next four years?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>We know there needs to be an increase in the number of beds in the hospital system after the cuts that have recently been instituted by the Pallister PCs. That's why we would support adding new beds to our hospital system, as well as adding new residential hospice beds to the health care system over the course of our mandate. We know there needs to be a strategy to integrate this addition into the broader health care system and we are committed to doing so through the development of a province-wide palliative care strategy.</p>	<p>Our PC team is committed to quality patient care for all Manitobans no matter where they live, and we have focused on reducing waits for health care services which were unacceptably high when we came to office. To ensure our health care system can accomplish this goal, our PC government tasked Shared Health with developing Manitoba's first Provincial Clinical and Preventive Services Plan. This plan will be developed by 11 teams specializing in different fields of medicine. One of these 11 teams will be studying cancer and palliative care. Part of their study will focus on ensuring appropriate resources are in place at this extremely important time of life, and we will be guided by their advice with regard to the appropriate deployment of residential hospice beds.</p>
<p>The biggest gaps in palliative services in Manitoba are in rural and remote communities. If elected, would you set benchmarks to increase the number of health care providers and services focused on palliative care in community and rural settings?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>We have committed in our platform to strengthening training for all health care professionals on issues related to palliative care. We know training is very important for health care workers in urgent, acute and community settings. And we know we can increase in training can lead to an increase in the availability of palliative services. We have also committed to hiring more nurses and adding more supports for home care services. We will invest in public home care and new beds, not cuts and privatization. We will work to immediately replace reductions in nurses and home care workers that have hit rural and remote communities in our province in order to address the shortage over the course of our mandate.</p>	<p>Our PC team understands the pressures being placed on health care systems throughout the country as our population continues ages. The bilateral agreement our government signed with the federal government which will provide \$400 million over ten years to improve home care and palliative care services available to Manitobans. This agreement was applauded by Palliative Manitoba as well as the Canadian Cancer Society. In particular, we plan to focus on palliative care outside of Winnipeg as we know there are great needs in rural Manitoba. If re-elected, a PC government has committed to investing \$2 billion into our health care system over the next mandate. We will continue to invest in services that help all Manitobans receive quality patient care.</p>
<p>If elected, would you amend legislation to allow patients simultaneous access to both the Palliative Care Drug Access Program and the Home Cancer Drug Program to allow a seamless transition at end of life?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>We know how important it is for end of life patients to live in as much comfort as possible in the dignity of their own home. We will work with experts to ensure there is a seamless transition at end of life for patients – and we will take whatever regulatory, policy or legislative means necessary to make that a reality.</p>	<p>Our PC Team understands the need for access to drugs particularly when Manitobans reach the end of their life. A re-elected PC government will commit to evaluating this proposal.</p>
<p>If elected, would you dedicate resources to educate and help Manitobans better understand the benefits of palliative care and what such care genuinely entails?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Yes we are committed to creating new resources for Manitobans as part of a broader province wide palliative care strategy. We know education and awareness is key for all medical procedures and treatments and we believe that developing a strategy would greatly benefit Manitobans and lead to heightened awareness and understanding of the benefits of palliative care.</p>	<p>Our PC Team believes it is important that Manitobans and their families know their options when it comes to end of life care. No matter where one lives in the province, ensuring quality palliative care services are available is a necessity during this very difficult time in the lives of not only the patient but friends and loved ones as well. Our PC Team has committed to invest \$2 billion on health care over the next mandate if re-elected. We will ensure this investment goes toward ensuring Manitoba's health care system is accessible for all Manitobans.</p>
<p>There are several other ways to improve palliative care services in Manitoba including improvements and innovations in education, care delivery models, and supports for NGOs working in this field. Does your party champion any additional strategies related to palliative care improvement that you are committed to acting on within the next four years?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>We do champion additional strategies to improve palliative care in Manitoba. We know palliative care requires support – we need to educate Manitobans about its benefits, provide service providers with the training and tools they need as well as promote awareness in society about palliative care. That requires a provincial strategy and we are committed to working with all stakeholder groups in order to find and implement best practices and to promote palliative care in Manitoba.</p>	<p>Our PC Team knows that political parties and government do not have the solution to all issues including those related to palliative care. We know groups such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Jocelyn House, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and Palliative Manitoba are experts in their fields and often have ideas that are worthy of being considered by government. We remain committed, if re-elected, to working with those groups who specialize in end of life care. While it may not be realistic to partner on every strategy, we can assure all Manitobans that a re-elected PC government will evaluate proposals and partner on ideas that provide Manitobans with the best service at the greatest value for their hard earned money.</p>