

Hello LTCAM Members,

On Behalf of Sue Vovchuk, Executive Director of the Long Term Care Association of Manitoba, we are pleased to share some important weekly updates.

Conference 2024 Healing Hearts and Minds:

We're excited to inform our esteemed LTCAM members and prospective exhibitors that we're on the countdown to our conference, with only **76 days** left until **May 14, 2024**. This is a reminder to mark your calendars and prepare for this significant event that promises to be a vibrant gathering of professionals and innovators in the long-term care industry. Your participation and contributions are what make this conference a cornerstone event each year. We eagerly anticipate your involvement and the shared insights and advancements we will explore together.

We're thrilled to announce extensions for our upcoming conference deadlines! There are now **32 days** left until the extended deadline of **March 31, 2024**. Seize this opportunity to nominate deserving individuals for the Awards of Excellence and to submit your innovative ideas to the Safety Den challenge. With more time on your hands, ensure you're part of celebrating and highlighting the significant contributions within the long-term care industry. Don't miss out on this chance to showcase excellence and innovation. Submit your entries and nominations today and join us in making this event memorable!

1. 2024 Exhibitors/Sponsorship

Thank you to our dedicated Members who've registered for the LTCAM Conference on May 14, 2024. **65 of 89 booths** are already claimed. Secure your spot at this transformative event by registering now using the [online form](#). Join us for enriching discussions and networking opportunities. Don't miss out!

2. 2024 Awards of Excellence

Join us on May 14th as we celebrate outstanding contributions in the long-term care sector through the Awards for Excellence. These prestigious awards honour individuals, teams, and volunteers who demonstrate exceptional dedication in various care environments, such as Personal Care Homes, Supportive Housing residences, Assisted Living, Adult programs, and Community and Seniors resource centers. Nominate someone who goes above and beyond to provide exceptional care and service to seniors in Manitoba by **March 31, 2024**. Three winners will be selected by an independent panel and presented with a cash prize of \$250 each at our Annual Provincial Long-Term and Continuing Care Conference. Visit [here](#) to nominate!

3. Safety Den - Innovate Workplace Health and Safety

Calling all innovators! Do you have an idea that can revolutionize workplace health and safety in the long-term care sector? Safety Den welcomes your innovative ideas in two categories: Workplace Safety Innovation and Commercial Safety Innovation. Pitch your ideas to our "Dragons" for a chance to win cash prizes and recognition. Category 1

invites ideas from workplaces providing care and services to seniors, while Category 2 welcomes ideas from organizations. Submit your innovative safety ideas by **March 31, 2024**, detailing the concept's impact, benefits, and improvements in workplace safety. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference! Apply [here](#) and prepare to pitch to our esteemed panel at the conference.

4. **Delegates**

Join the forefront of change and innovation in the long-term care sector by signing up as a delegate for the 2024 Healing Hearts & Minds Conference. This is your opportunity to connect with industry leaders, engage in meaningful discussions, and gain insights into mental health and mindfulness that can transform the way we care for Manitoba Seniors. Secure your spot now and be part of a community dedicated to making a difference! See the attached poster for more details and [register today](#).

Commercial Minute:

Did you know Shared Health Manitoba frequently releases tenders for a variety of products and services? This presents a fantastic opportunity for LTCAM members to engage in new business ventures. To stay updated on these opportunities, we recommend regularly visiting the Bonfire website at sharedhealthmb.bonfirehub.ca. For tenders expected to exceed the value of \$75,000, comprehensive Notices of Intended Procurement are posted on the Shared Health website under [Bid Opportunities](#), with summaries also available on MERX (www.merx.com). Don't miss out on the chance to expand your business and contribute to the health sector by keeping an eye on these platforms for the latest tender opportunities.

This Week's News

- 1. Manitoba Government Adds Psychiatrists to Cut Wait Times Across the Province:**
The Manitoba government introduces nine new psychiatrist positions and expands mental health training to address the growing demand for mental health services, aiming to reduce wait times and improve care quality.
<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62119&posted=2024-02-27>
- 2. Manitoba Government Approves \$710-Million Special Warrant:**
To address health-system staffing shortages, the Manitoba government has approved a \$710-million special warrant, highlighting the need to meet challenges left by the previous administration's fiscal management.
<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62118&posted=2024-02-27>
- 3. Manitoba Government Releases Post-Election Financial Accountability Review:**
A review by the Manitoba government and MNP highlights prior fiscal decisions posing high budgetary risks, emphasizing the importance of sustainable financial planning for future governance. <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62079&posted=2024-02-23>
- 4. Manitoba Government Funds Wheelchair Repair Jobs:**
Over \$288,000 has been allocated to support Manitoba Possible's wheelchair repair program, aiming to improve access and reduce wait times for wheelchair repairs and

modifications, enhancing mobility support for Manitobans with disabilities.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62077&posted=2024-02-23>

5. Manitoba Government Making it Easier for Former Nurses to Come Back to Work

The Manitoba government, collaborating with three nursing regulatory colleges, is establishing a simplified process for former nurses to re-enter the profession. This initiative, announced by Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara, aims to tackle the nurse shortage by welcoming back nurses who have left the field. Immediate changes include reducing required practice hours for reinstatement and introducing conditional registration options. Regulatory amendments for permanent implementation are anticipated this spring. This move has been well-received by the nursing community and regulatory bodies, emphasizing a commitment to maintaining high competency standards while addressing workforce needs.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62137&posted=2024-02-28>

6. The Liberals and NDP say they have a pharmacare deal — so what's left on their to-do list?

The Liberals and NDP have announced a pharmacare deal, marking progress in their confidence-and-supply agreement but leaving several promises yet to be fulfilled. This deal, part of a broader effort to support minority government stability and avoid early elections, focuses on key NDP policy priorities, including a national dental care plan. Despite the achievement, the government faces challenges such as missed deadlines and ongoing commitments like a Safe Long-Term Care Act and a Homebuyers' Bill of Rights, highlighting the complex path ahead in delivering on their agreement.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/confidence-and-supply-liberal-ndp-pharmacare-1.7124031>

7. 10,000 Canadians were asked how to improve health care. Here's what they said

The OurCare project, surveying close to 10,000 Canadians, aimed to address primary care reform, gathering insights on access to family doctors or nurse practitioners and identifying patient priorities. The findings underline the need for timely, ongoing access to primary care providers and advocate for expanding team-based care.

Recommendations include broader access to interdisciplinary healthcare professionals and integrating virtual care with in-person services to enhance overall patient outcomes. This comprehensive feedback is intended to guide policymakers in improving Canada's primary care system, emphasizing equitable and quality healthcare for all.

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/10-000-canadians-were-asked-how-to-improve-health-care-heres-what-they-said/article_e0e5ce24-d265-11ee-bb19-efff77dde9fa.html#:~:text=The%20OurCare%20report%20recommends%20expanding,s uch%20teams%20improve%20patient%20outcomes.

8. Team Primary Care Summit brings together primary care leaders in Canada

The Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine (FAFM) is hosting the two-day Team Primary Care (TPC) Summit, uniting Canada's health care leaders to revolutionize primary care training. This initiative, funded by Employment and Social Development Canada and involving a wide representation of primary care professions, aims to enhance team-based care through new curricula and practical tools. The Summit marks a significant step towards creating a skilled workforce capable of delivering comprehensive, team-based primary care in Canada.

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2024/02/22/2833789/0/en/Team-Primary-Care-Summit-brings-together-primary-care-leaders-in-Canada.html>

9. Rethinking Mental Health Crisis Care: The Canadian Shift Towards Home Treatment

Canada is pioneering a shift towards home treatment for mental health crises, offering a more comfortable, cost-effective alternative to hospital care. Dr. David S. Heath highlights the potential of psychiatric hospital-at-home programs, crisis residences, and acute day hospitals as practical solutions, emphasizing their benefits in safety, cost, and patient preference. Despite the challenges in widespread adoption, these initiatives promise to transform mental health care by providing support within the familiar environment of patients' homes, advocating for a national strategy to expand access.

<https://bnnbreaking.com/world/canada/rethinking-mental-health-crisis-care-the-canadian-shift-towards-home-treatment>

10. NDP's Singh questions provinces mulling pharmacare opt-out

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh is optimistic that provinces considering opting out of the national pharmacare plan will eventually join, drawing parallels to the initial resistance and eventual nationwide acceptance of universal health care in Canada. Despite Alberta's intent to opt out for a per-capita share of funding, citing concerns about consultation and cost implications, Singh believes it will be challenging for Alberta's Premier to justify denying residents access to essential medications like diabetes treatments under the pharmacare plan. The plan aims to cover specific drug categories, including diabetes medications and contraceptives, with ongoing discussions about expanding coverage and bulk purchasing of medications. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10318091/ndp-jagmeet-singh-alberta-quebec-pharmacare-opt-out/>

11. High nurse vacancy rates at southern Manitoba health care centre part of larger problem: Union head

The Manitoba Nurses Union (MNU) president Darlene Jackson highlights a significant province-wide issue of high nursing vacancy rates, notably at the Boundary Trails Health Centre, contributing to increased overtime, burnout, and low morale among nurses. This shortage, part of a larger trend across Manitoba, is causing staffing crises in healthcare facilities, with over 2,800 vacant nursing positions reported in June 2023. Efforts to address the issue include various recruitment and retention strategies, yet challenges persist, emphasizing the critical need for sustainable solutions in the healthcare sector.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/news/provincial/high-nurse-vacancy-rates-at-southern-manitoba-health-care-centre-part-of-larger-problem-union-head>

12. Manitoba nursing students push for compensation whilst putting in the clinical hours

Manitoba nursing students, led by Luigi Imbrogno from the Canadian Nursing Students Association, are advocating for compensation during their clinical hours, citing high out-of-pocket costs for courses, travel, uniforms, and other necessities. Despite reaching out to hospital leadership and government officials for dialogue, responses have been limited. They aim for future changes to support nursing students financially, acknowledging the demanding nature of nursing programs and the financial strain it places on students.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10318989/manitoba-nursing-students-compensation/>

'Big news': Asthma drug shows promise for severe food allergies

A study reveals that the asthma drug Xolair, also known as omalizumab, may significantly

reduce the severity of allergic reactions in individuals with severe food allergies. This promising development, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrates that after 16 weeks of treatment, patients, including very young children, showed improved tolerance to common food allergens like peanuts. This breakthrough offers a potential protective measure against severe allergic responses, marking a significant advancement for the food allergy community and introducing a new treatment option that could enhance the quality of life for those affected. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10317145/food-allergy-treatment-asthma-drug-xolair/>