

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.

The Wednesday Watch will see you again in the New Year, Happy Holidays!

BREAKING NEWS

Some Health-Care Projects, Including Nursing Homes, on Pause in Manitoba Amid a comprehensive financial review and assessment of healthcare needs, the Manitoba government has temporarily suspended several healthcare projects, notably including the construction of nursing homes, such as those planned in Arborg, Oakbank, Stonewall, Winnipeg, and Lac Du Bonnet. These personal care homes, which were approved under the former government and were expected to add a total of 670 beds, are currently affected by the suspension. Minister Uzoma Asagwara emphasized that this decision is part of a broader evaluation aimed at reinforcing the healthcare system while ensuring fiscal responsibility. The pause in these projects encompasses an in-depth assessment of staffing requirements and does not presently have a specified timeline for their resumption. <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/some-health-care-projects-including-nursing-homes-on-pause-in-manitoba-1.6694118>

NDP Halts Personal Care Homes as Seniors Housing Wait Times Worsen Amid concerns over prolonged wait times for seniors' housing, the NDP government has halted the progression of several healthcare capital projects, notably personal care homes. The Lac Du Bonnet personal care home (PCH), which has been in discussion since 2012 and was promised to continue by the Premier in the Clipper Weekly, is among those affected. Derek Johnson, Shadow Minister for Seniors and Long-Term Care, expressed disappointment over the delay, emphasizing the urgency to fulfill commitments and expand care homes due to the rising aging population. The pause impacts projects across various locations that were previously approved under the former Tory government, affecting potential bed additions for seniors awaiting housing. (see both PC News Release and Backgrounder attached)

CJOB Interview for LTCAM Response - With Sue Vovchuk Executive Director Dec 20, 2023

10: 00 AM

This Weeks News:

1. **Manitoba Government Taking Steps to Address Deficit While Delivering for Manitobans**

Finance Minister Adrien Sala announced measures to tackle the \$1.6-billion deficit left by the previous government, focusing on scrutinizing expenses and redirecting funds to essential sectors like healthcare. Sala highlighted initiatives to cover expenses, cut unnecessary spending, and design a path to fiscal balance. The government aims to ensure that promises align with Manitobans' priorities while initiating plans to stabilize the province's fiscal condition.

(Attached)

2. **Expert: Health Canada approves updated COVID-19 vaccine ahead of holidays**

Health Canada recently approved the Novavax vaccine, marking a significant step in fortifying Canada's response against COVID-19. McGill University's Anne Gatignol, an expert in virus-cell interactions, expressed the importance of this updated vaccine, providing an alternative to mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. Gatignol emphasized that having multiple vaccine options benefits individuals who cannot receive or prefer alternatives to mRNA technology-

based vaccines.(Attached)

3. **Funded Guided Tours at The Leaf for Senior Groups**

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy's Education and Programming division announced funded guided tours available for qualifying Adult Day Programs and senior groups at The Leaf. These tours, offered from January 23 to March 22 on weekdays, include visits to various biomes and offer transportation reimbursement of up to \$250. Interested groups need to complete a funding application form to participate.(Attached)

4. **Manitoba Stroke Patients to Benefit from Intensive Rehabilitation in New Dedicated Unit**

Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara unveiled a dedicated stroke unit at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, providing specialized care and intensive rehabilitation for Manitoba stroke survivors. The newly renovated unit, situated in the former Women's Pavilion, will initially accommodate 12 beds with plans to expand to 28 beds. The unit's focus on immediate care post-stroke aims to improve recovery and enhance patients' quality of life.(Attached)

5. **National Grief Survey Deadline Extended to Dec. 22, 2023**

The National Grief Survey, intended to gather insights on grief experiences, has extended its

deadline to December 22, 2023, due to an overwhelming response. This survey aims to collect thoughts on grief to inform future initiatives by the Canadian Grief Alliance (CGA), supporting grieving individuals and equipping others with tools to offer assistance. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, ensures anonymity, and is confidential. You can access the survey [here](#). For more information or to view the original survey launch email, click [here](#).

6. **Pharmacare bill to be tabled by March 2024, Liberals and NDP confirm**

Both the Liberals and NDP agreed to extend pharmacare negotiations into 2024 with the objective of introducing legislation by March 1. Christopher Aoun, spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Holland, highlighted the importance of getting the pharmacare program right, emphasizing the need for continued productive negotiations. The Liberals and NDP reaffirmed their commitment to deliver a comprehensive pharmacare bill, considering its impact on many Canadians. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/pharmacare-ndp-liberal-1.7059558>

7. **December 18, 2023: Auditor General releases annual report on financial statement audits**

Auditor General Tyson Shtykalo released an annual report on financial statement audits, issuing a qualified opinion due to insufficient support for asset retirement obligations in the Province's financial statements. Alongside this qualification, the financial statements were deemed to fairly present the government's financial position. Shtykalo urged the government to address significant control and accounting issues identified in various departments, emphasizing the need for better audit readiness and improved planning processes. (Attached)

Enterprise Canada Survey:

We need to hear from you!

An influential government relations firm that guided LTCAM and its members through the 2023 Manitoba Provincial Election.

Did you feel better informed and prepared for the 2023 Provincial Election?

Please complete the online 4- question survey through this [link](#).

[Deadline January 31, 2024](#)

May 14, 2024

Conference: Healing Hearts and Minds

1. Exhibitors/Sponsorship

Secure your spot now using the [online form](#).
43 of 89 booths are already sold!

[Deadline: February 29, 2024](#)

2. Awards for Excellence

Nominations Open & Welcome

\$250 per Winner, 3 Winners selected

Nominate an individual or team who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and exceptional dedication in the long-term care sector (Personal Care Homes, Supportive Housing, Assisted Living, Adult Day Programs, Support Services to Seniors)
Visit [here](#) to nominate!

[Deadline: March 31, 2024.](#)

3. Safety Den - Innovative Workplace Health and Safety

Calling all innovators!

Workplace: *First Prize \$1,000 | Second Prize \$500 | Third Prize \$250*

Commercial: *First, Second, and Third Place commemorative trophy and annual bragging rights!*

Do you have an idea that can revolutionize workplace health and safety in the long-term care sector? Pitch your ideas to our "Dragons" for a chance to win cash prizes and recognition
Apply [here](#) and prepare to pitch to our esteemed panel at the conference.

[Deadline: March 15, 2024](#)