

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 Week's News

1. **Manitoba Government Invites Eligible Organizations to Apply for the Manitoba Accessibility Fund**

The Manitoba government is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 Manitoba Accessibility Fund, offering grants of up to \$50,000 for projects improving accessibility and removing barriers for Manitobans with disabilities. Eligible organizations, including charities, non-profits, local businesses, and municipalities, must address accessibility standards under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and focus on objectives like raising awareness, developing tools, or removing barriers to information and communications.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=61597&posted=2024-01-17>

2. **Health Canada says U.S. has assured minister on domestic drug supply**

Health Minister Mark Holland reassured Canadians that the U.S. government has assured him of no intention to trigger drug shortages in Canada after the U.S. FDA allowed Florida to import drugs from Canada. Canada's existing regulations are in place to prevent wholesalers from selling medicine outside the domestic market if it could impact the supply for Canadians. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10231606/canada-drug-supply-us-mark-holland/>

3. **Canadians give governments an 'F' in meeting their mental health and substance use health needs: CAMIMH Poll**

According to the second annual National Report Card survey from the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH), federal and provincial governments in Canada received a collective grade of 'F' for providing mental health and substance use health care services. The survey indicates low public confidence and satisfaction with the government's efforts to improve timely access to mental health and substance use health services, with Canadians expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of progress and necessary investments. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadians-give-governments-an-f-in-meeting-their-mental-health-and-substance-use-health-needs-camimh-poll-883182534.html>

4. **Federal dental care program will exclude 4.4M uninsured Canadians: report**

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a report stating that approximately 4.4 million uninsured Canadians will be excluded from the new federal dental program due to their family income being too high. The federal program, initiated as part of a political agreement between the Liberal government and the NDP, offers dental benefits

to uninsured families with a household income under \$90,000 per year, with the exclusion impacting those whose income exceeds this cap.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/federal-dental-care-program-canadians-1.7086562>

5. **Manitoba Clinic purchased by B.C.-based health care company**

Well Health Technologies, a British Columbia-based healthcare company, has acquired the Manitoba Clinic in Winnipeg, the largest private clinic in the province, which had entered creditor protection in November 2022 due to financial difficulties. Well Health Technologies, operating over 165 clinics across Canada, aims to invest significantly in the Manitoba health-care system, maintain existing employees, and provide physicians the opportunity to continue their practices, benefiting patients and the community.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-clinic-new-ownership-1.7086883>

6. **MB Listening to Health Care Workers Survey**

From Engage MB: The Manitoba government is committed to listening to the front line of health care and we want to hear from you. In addition to in-person sessions at healthcare sites across the province, this brief survey is a starting point to collect your experiences, the challenges you face, and your ideas for change. <https://engagemb.ca/listeningtothefrontline>

7. **January is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month**

The Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos, emphasizes the substantial and growing impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Canada and globally. The government remains committed to supporting over 450,000 Canadians with diagnosed dementia through Canada's first national dementia strategy, focusing on awareness, risk reduction, stigma reduction, improved quality of life, and dementia-inclusive communities. Initiatives include funding for awareness workshops in East Asian immigrant communities and a bilingual Dementia Education Program, along with the launch of the Brain Health and Cognitive Impairment in Aging Research Initiative in 2023 to advance research and knowledge on dementia. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/01/message-from-the-minister-of-health--alzheimers-awareness-month.html>

8. **MARCHE NEW CEO**

Gladys Hrabí has been appointed as the CEO of the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM), the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM), and the Manitoba Association of Residential and Community Homes for Everyone (MARCHE). With two master's degrees and a background in social work, leadership, management, and policy work, Gladys, currently providing clinical leadership at Deer Lodge Centre, is expected to bring valuable expertise to the role, commencing her position on March 4, 2024. The announcement also expresses gratitude to Julie Turenne-Maynard for her seven years of service and leadership. (See Attached)

9. **Manitoba announces pilot project at Health Sciences Centre aimed at reducing wait times**

Manitoba's Health Minister, Uzoma Asagwara, announced a four-week pilot project at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre (HSC) aimed at reducing wait times in the emergency department. The trial program involves funding an additional physician at HSC's minor treatment clinic, focusing on non-urgent issues and walk-in patients without primary care providers, to address surging patient volumes and provide more accessible and timely care. The initiative aims to relieve pressure on the emergency department, expedite

patient care, and minimize hospital admissions by offering outpatient services. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10238194/manitoba-hsc-wait-times-health-care/>

10. **National Older Adult Mental Health Survey**

The Mental Health Commission is pleased to launch the National Older Adult Mental Health Survey to inform research that will identify priorities, barriers, and challenges pertaining to older adult mental health in Canada. This survey will be one of several data sources that will inform a research report on the current landscape and future directions of older adult mental health in Canada.

Links to the survey:

English: https://queensu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6tKKO7bRHJSLe6y

French: https://queensu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4TNCkk8OsFZJIQy

11. **25 New Nursing Seats Created In Neepawa to Help Address Rural Staffing Shortages**

The Manitoba government, represented by Premier Wab Kinew and Advanced Education and Training Minister Renée Cable, attended the grand opening of the Neepawa Training Centre, which has created 25 new nursing seats. The Neepawa Training Centre, developed by the Town of Neepawa as a rural training hub, is in partnership with Assiniboine Community College, offering a two-year practical nursing diploma program to address the critical need for healthcare workers and support rural Manitobans pursuing nursing careers. The initiative aligns with the government's commitment to fix healthcare by providing quality healthcare and fostering local opportunities in nursing professions.

12. **Ottawa acknowledges ‘concerns about readiness’ on medical aid in dying expansion**

Health Minister Mark Holland has acknowledged concerns about the readiness of Canada to expand medical assistance in dying (MAiD) to include mental disorders as a sole reason. The federal government faces a March 17, 2024 deadline to decide whether to allow a sunset clause that would broaden MAiD eligibility. Some health professionals, including psychiatrists, have expressed reservations about the expansion, emphasizing the need for robust safeguards and system preparedness, while others argue for the importance of respecting Charter Rights and avoiding further delays. The government's decision is pending the release of a committee report expected next week.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10243442/maid-expansion-canada-readiness-deadline/>

13. **Inside Canada's national dementia strategy**

In Canada, dementia is a growing public health concern, with an estimated 600,000 Canadians living with dementia in 2023. To address this issue, the Canadian government enacted the National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act in 2017. Dr. Carrie McAiney, a professor and Schlegel Research Chair in Dementia from the University of Waterloo, played a key role in shaping the national dementia strategy by emphasizing the importance of involving individuals living with dementia in decision-making processes. The strategy focuses on key areas such as the health and social care system, support for caregivers, workforce development, and research, but questions remain about its future evolution and sustainability after the allocated funding is

expended. <https://uwaterloo.ca/news/global-futures/inside-canadas-national-dementia-strategy>

14. Dementia projected to surge 273% in Indigenous communities while support services lacking

A new report by the Alzheimer's Society projects a 273% increase in dementia cases in Indigenous communities in Canada by 2050, significantly higher than the potential 187% increase forecast for the overall population. The study points to various factors, including social determinants of health such as racism, inadequate housing, poverty, residential schools, and colonialism, which contribute to the higher risk of dementia in Indigenous populations. The report emphasizes the importance of education about dementia, planning for challenges, and building dementia care into health services in Indigenous communities. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10240675/dementia-projected-to-surge-273-in-indigenous-communities-while-support-services-lacking/>

15. Statement from the Ministers of Health and Mental Health & Addictions on National Non-Smoking Week

The Ministers of Health and Mental Health & Addictions in Canada released a statement on National Non-Smoking Week, emphasizing the importance of reflecting on the benefits of a smoke-free life and supporting individuals to quit smoking. The statement highlights the health risks of tobacco use, encourages Canadians to quit smoking with available resources, and outlines government initiatives, including the \$66 million annual commitment through Canada's Tobacco Strategy and new regulations requiring health warnings directly on individual cigarettes starting in April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/01/statement-from-the-ministers-of-health-and-mental-health-addictions-on-national-non-smoking-week.html>

16. Home care attendants needed in Manitoba, WRHA recruiting workers with free program

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) conducted a job fair for home care attendants to address the increasing demand, with home care visits rising from 385,000 in January to 416,000 in December. The WRHA introduced a free course in March 2023 to train uncertified home care attendants, reducing the job vacancy rate from 23% in January 2023 to 14% in December. The program aims to stabilize home care and has filled 203 uncertified positions since its inception. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10243205/home-care-attendants-needed-manitoba-wrha/>

17. New StatsCAN Plus article on the use of electronic health information

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information, released data from the Canadian Social Survey on Quality of Life, Virtual Health Care, and Trust. The survey found that just over half of Canadians (51%) accessed electronic health information in the past 12 months, including lab test results, vaccine records, appointments, medications, and medical imaging reports. Canadians with regular healthcare providers and those with chronic conditions were more likely to access electronic health information, and residents of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario reported higher usage. https://www.statcan.gc.ca/01/en/plus?utm_source=stakeholder&utm_medium=enl&utm_campaign=statcan-stacan-electronichealth-santelectronique-23-24

18. **Number of Canadians with dementia to grow 187% by 2050: study**

A study by the Alzheimer Society of Canada predicts that the number of people living with dementia in Canada will rise by 187% by 2050, reaching over 1.7 million individuals. The study emphasizes the need for services and supports tailored to the diverse needs of communities and highlights the impact of structural barriers and social determinants of health on brain health. It also calls for addressing racism in healthcare and social support systems, improving data collection on brain health and dementia, and providing culturally safe and relevant resources and training for healthcare professionals. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/number-of-canadians-with-dementia-to-grow-187-by-2050-study-1.6738537>

19. **U.S., Canada discuss drug importation plan; concerns linger**

U.S. and Canadian officials discussed the Biden administration's approval of Florida's plan to import cheaper prescription drugs from Canada. While the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a summary emphasizing collaboration to combat increasing drug prices, Health Canada expressed disappointment with the FDA decision and affirmed Canada's commitment to take necessary measures to protect its drug supply. <https://news.wgcu.org/section/health/2024-01-23/u-s-canada-discuss-drug-importation-plan-concerns-linger>

20. **'Unconscionable': Manitoba on pace to surpass \$60M on private nurse spending**

Manitoba has spent over \$35 million on private agency nurses in the first half of this fiscal year, putting it on track to surpass the total of \$60 million from the previous year. The Manitoba Nurses Union describes the outpouring of public funds as "unconscionable," while the provincial health minister blames the previous government for driving nurses out of the public system and into the private sector. <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/01/24/unconscionable-manitoba-on-pace-to-surpass-60m-on-private-nurse-spending>

21. **WHO issues measles warning as yearly cases in Europe rise more than 30-fold**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued an urgent warning about measles after a significant rise in cases across Europe, reporting an alarming 30-fold increase in cases between January and October 2023. The organization emphasized the need for urgent vaccination efforts to prevent further spread of the disease, as measles cases in Europe rose from 941 in 2022 to more than 30,000 in the first ten months of 2023. Falling vaccination rates and increased travel after the COVID-19 pandemic were cited as contributing factors to the rise in cases. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/jan/23/world-health-organization-who-measles-warning-cases-rise-europe>

Conference 2024 Healing Hearts and Minds:

1. **2024 Exhibitors/Sponsorship**

Thank you to our dedicated Members who've registered for the LTCAM Conference on May 14, 2024. **Invoicing has started** and 50 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 1, 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 15, 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.

Winnipeg: January 12, 2024

News Release

CHAM, IHCAM and MARCHE Announce new CEO

We are pleased to announce that Gladys Hrabí has been appointed as CEO of the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM), the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM) and the Manitoba Association of Residential and Community Homes for Everyone (MARCHE).

Gladys brings with her a wealth of experience and working knowledge of health care in Manitoba. She possesses two masters' degrees, with a focus on social work, leadership, management, and policy work. She currently provides clinical leadership in social work at Deer Lodge Centre and was previously the Executive Director of the Manitoba Brain Injury Association in Winnipeg. We are confident that Gladys has the combination of knowledge, talent and leadership skills required to help move our work forward. Gladys is a person of faith who looks forward to working in a non-profit and denominational health care environment.

Gladys will commence her position on March 4, 2024, and we look forward to working with her.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank Julie Turenne-Maynard for seven years of service to CHAM, IHCAM and MARCHE. We are grateful for her leadership and commitment and wish her the very best as she enters a new chapter in her life.

Please join us in welcoming Gladys Hrabí as our new CEO.



Jean R. Piché
Board Chair
CHAM



Laurie Cerquetti
Board Chair
IHCAM



Joyce Krisjansson
Board Chair
MARCHE