

**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.

**ANNOUNCING**

**Join Us for the Inaugural National Long-Term Care Day on June 13!**

**We are thrilled to announce that the long-term care sector will come together to celebrate National Long-Term Care Day on Thursday, June 13. This day honours the dedication of caregivers who provide essential support to our seniors and others in need of long-term care services across Canada.**

**We encourage all LTCAM members to participate by:**

- **Making a statement to raise awareness of the day.**
- **Sharing on social media using #NationalLTCDay.**

**Member News**

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**ALS Society of Manitoba** (Calendar Attached)

1. **SAVE THE DATE** for the Brandon Walk to End ELS on **Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Riverbank Discovery Centre**. For more information visit: <https://alsmb.ca/walk-to-end-als-brandon-2024/>

**This Week's News**

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1. **Canadian Red Cross Friendly Calls Program**

The Canadian Red Cross Friendly Calls program, a free service, helps address loneliness and isolation, especially post-COVID-19. It matches individuals over 18 with trained volunteers for regular check-ins, emotional support, healthy coping strategies, and connections to community resources. Calls are personalized, ranging from brief check-ins to longer chats. To join or volunteer, contact 1-833-979-9779 or email [friendlycallingmb@redcross.ca](mailto:friendlycallingmb@redcross.ca). No experience is necessary, and all training is provided. (See attached for more information)

2. **Manitoba Government Enacts New Laws**

The Manitoba government has enacted several new laws following the spring session of the 43rd legislature. Key laws include the Unexplained Wealth Act and the Intimate Images Protection Act, which aim to strengthen public safety and combat organized crime. Other notable bills address adult literacy, safe access to abortion services, emergency medical response, workplace safety, community childcare standards, and the regulation of health professions.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=63777&posted=2024-06-04>

3. **Pharmacare bill passes in the House of Commons, heads to the Senate**

The House of Commons has passed the Liberals' pharmacare bill, which now heads to the Senate. The bill, a result of negotiations between the Liberals and New Democrats, aims to provide first-payer coverage for certain contraceptive and diabetes medications, setting the groundwork for a future universal pharmacare program. Once enacted, Health Minister Mark Holland will negotiate with provinces and territories to implement the program, expected to cost \$1.5 billion over five years.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/pharmacare-bill-passes-in-the-house-of-commons-heads-to-the-senate-1.6912147>

#### 4. **Mandatory Training for Accessible Information and Communication**

The Accessible Information and Communications Standard Regulation came into effect on May 1, 2022, requiring Manitoba organizations to provide barrier-free information and communication. A learning module to help understand and apply these practices is available through the LMS and the Manitoba Accessibility Office Online Learning Portal at [amalearningmb.ca](http://amalearningmb.ca). This training is mandatory for all WRHA staff and must be completed by November 1, 2024. For more details on the regulation, visit:

[web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/047-2022.php?lang=en](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/047-2022.php?lang=en)

#### 5. **Experts call on Manitoba to cover the costs of shingles vaccine**

Experts are urging Manitoba to cover the cost of the shingles vaccine, which is currently out-of-pocket for residents, unlike in Ontario and Alberta. With one in two people over 65 experiencing shingles, experts argue that providing the vaccine publicly would protect vulnerable populations and reduce long-term healthcare costs. They recommend prioritizing vaccination for those aged 65-75 initially, similar to COVID-19 vaccination strategies. <https://winnipeg.citynews.ca/2024/06/04/experts-call-on-manitoba-to-cover-the-costs-of-shingles-vaccine/>

#### 6. **Shared Health says ending more than 50 contracts with external vendors will save Manitoba \$7.5M**

Shared Health Manitoba has ended over 50 contracts with external vendors, expecting to save \$7.5 million annually. Additionally, the organization has laid off approximately 24 non-unionized administrative employees and reassigned others, aiming to reduce bureaucracy and redirect resources to patient care. These changes are part of a provincial mandate to cut administrative costs and improve healthcare delivery.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/shared-health-external-contracts-vendors-ended-cuts-bureaucracy-1.7224395>

Please feel free to share the Wednesday Watch with your colleagues who might find it valuable. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the Wednesday Watch Mailing List, kindly send the contact information to me at [lgraham@lcam.mb.ca](mailto:lgraham@lcam.mb.ca). Thank you for your time and consideration. Your engagement and willingness to share this resource are greatly appreciated.