

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.

Association News:

On Monday, February 12th, Jason Chester, President, I, and the executive team of the Manitoba Association of Residential & Community Care Homes for Everyone (MARCHE) met with Minister Asagwara and their team. We discussed our priorities and aspirations for the future of the long-term care sector in Manitoba and requested ongoing meetings and dialogue with the Ministry.

During the meeting, we expressed our dedication to collaboratively working with the Ministry to tackle the challenges facing our sector and sought regular meetings moving forward. We shared insights into our current initiatives and projects, highlighting our innovative approaches to improving care for our communities. The discussion was constructive, focusing on leveraging our collective strengths to devise meaningful solutions.

Further to our discussions, and as a follow-up to our letter of invitation, we formally requested Minister Asagwara to speak at our upcoming conference scheduled for May 14th. We believe their participation would significantly enrich the event, offering valuable perspectives and fostering a deeper understanding of the Ministry's vision and policies affecting our industry. We await the Minister's response and remain hopeful for a positive reply. Having Minister Asagwara address our conference would mark an important step toward enhanced collaboration and mutual support between our association and the Ministry.

Conference 2024 Healing Hearts and Minds:

We wish to remind all esteemed participants and prospective exhibitors that we are swiftly approaching key deadlines in the lead-up to our conference, there are only 83 days till **May 14, 2024**.

Please be advised submission period for the Awards of Excellence nominations, will conclude in 9 days, on **March 1, 2024** help recognize the great work done in the long-term care industry nominate someone today!

Additionally, we wish to emphasize that there are 30 days remaining until the **March 22, 2024** deadline for submissions to the Safety Den innovation challenge.

We encourage you to finalize your contributions and submit them promptly to ensure your participation in these significant segments of the conference. Your timely action will facilitate a smooth preparation process for what promises to be a remarkable gathering of professionals and innovators. We look forward to your submissions and to celebrating excellence and innovation together.

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 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 22, 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](#).

Members News

To all LTCAM members, Betel Home - Gimli is excited to announce two job openings and encourages you to share this opportunity with any contacts who might be interested. The positions available are for Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses, offering

various full-time equivalents (FTE) and the chance to contribute to high-quality care in a supportive environment. These roles are instrumental in providing comprehensive nursing care and fostering a resident-focused approach at Betel Home's facilities. For more details and to apply, please contact Tannis McDonald at TMcDonald@ierha.ca or call 204-642-5556 Ext 22355. Please see attached for full job postings.

This Week's News

1. **Launch of WHO Operational framework for monitoring social determinants of health equity**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced a new Operational framework for monitoring social determinants of health equity, aimed at supporting governments and partners in tracking and addressing the conditions that affect health outcomes and contribute to health inequities. This guidance is part of WHO's renewed efforts to tackle health disparities by encouraging the use of data for policy actions across different sectors. A global webinar on February 20, 2024, from 14:00 – 15:00 CET, will present this framework, featuring discussions by health experts and panellists on improving health equity through monitoring and data.

<https://santishealth.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cf1f8c59a22ebb2997780e2f1&id=0e20286cb0&e=9573d5522b>

2. **More Doctors, More Nurses, Shorter Wait Times in Manitoba**

On February 15, 2024, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew announced a joint funding initiative exceeding \$633 million to enhance healthcare services in Manitoba, including a significant focus on staffing increases and support for seniors. This funding, part of the Working Together and Aging with Dignity agreements, aims to recruit 400 more doctors, 300 nurses, and additional healthcare workers to reduce wait times and improve care quality. Additionally, the agreements emphasize improving health equity for Indigenous Peoples and expanding mental health and long-term care services, marking a collaborative effort to address healthcare challenges and support Manitoba's aging population with dignity.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=61977&posted=2024-02-15>

3. **Manitoba Government Celebrates 55th Edition of Festival du Voyageur**

The 55th edition of Festival du Voyageur in Manitoba invites residents to celebrate the rich histories of francophone, Métis, and First Nations communities through a diverse range of winter festivities. Running from February 16 to 25 at Whittier Park and other locations in St. Boniface, the festival, supported by nearly \$325,000 in annual government funding plus a one-time \$50,000 grant for infrastructure improvements, offers a blend of music, art, food, and cultural activities. Recognized under the Celebrate Manitoba program, Festival du Voyageur is Western Canada's largest winter festival, highlighting the province's fur-trading history and unique French heritage.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=61999&posted=2024-02-16>

4. **COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines Remain Broadly Available, Additional COVID-19 Dose Available to Some Higher-Risk Manitobans**

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care advises that COVID-19 and flu vaccines are still widely available and encourages Manitobans to get vaccinated before the end of April, in preparation for the fall immunization campaign. An additional dose of the XBB COVID-19 vaccine is now available for high-risk individuals, with eligibility and more information

accessible on Manitoba's government website. While COVID-19 vaccines will be available until April 30, a break until the fall aims to optimize immune response by ensuring a longer interval between doses. Vaccination remains crucial for preventing severe outcomes from both COVID-19 and the flu, with appointments available through calling 1-844-626-8222 or online.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=61958&posted=2024-02-16>

5. **Canada's family doctor shortage: 10 million will soon lack access to primary care**

Canada is facing a critical shortage of family doctors, with projections indicating that up to 10 million Canadians will lack access to primary care in the near future. Family doctors are retiring or transitioning to other medical specialties, leading to a decline in comprehensive family medicine and an increase in administrative burdens. This shortage is exacerbating issues like delayed cancer diagnoses and poorly managed chronic conditions, driving patients toward emergency departments or forgoing care altogether. The Ontario Medical Association is negotiating for solutions such as team-based care and streamlined administrative processes to alleviate the situation and prevent an exodus of family doctors from the practice.

<https://santishealth.us20.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=cf1f8c59a22ebb2997780e2f1&id=ff2a0eee48&e=9573d5522b](https://santishealth.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cf1f8c59a22ebb2997780e2f1&id=ff2a0eee48&e=9573d5522b)

Gas Tax Holiday Lowering Inflation for Manitobans

Manitoba has achieved the lowest inflation rate in Canada, primarily due to a gas tax holiday, as announced by Premier Wab Kinew. This suspension of the provincial fuel tax has been instrumental in reducing Manitoba's consumer inflation rate to 0.8% in January, down from 1.7% in December 2023, making it the only province with consumer inflation below the Bank of Canada's target range. According to Statistics Canada, the gas tax holiday led to a significant 20.2% drop in gasoline prices compared to the previous year, contributing directly to a 0.4% decrease in the overall inflation rate.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=62020&posted=2024-02-20>