

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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WAIT TIMES DOWN IN WINNIPEG

October 26, 2018



The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority announced this week that wait times for emergency and urgent care departments have been improving since the initiation of the Healing Our Health System transition plan in April 2017.

Data released this week by the WRHA show that while there are monthly fluctuations, there has been an overall downward trend over the longer term, in both the median wait times and maximum monthly median (annual peaks) system-wide across the WRHA since the plan was introduced. Long-term data trends also show the median length of stay for admitted patients has declined significantly over the past 18 months.

The data released today show median wait times were at or near the two-hour mark during the three years prior to the Healing Our Health System plan being initiated in April 2017. Since then, the median wait has typically been closer to 1.60 hours, according to the data. In fact, the only time the median reached the two-hour mark since the transition was initiated in April 2017, was last winter, during the most significant flu season since the H1N1 outbreak in 2009/10. Even that peak last winter was significantly lower than seasonal peaks in previous years.

The annual median for length of stay has dropped by more than three hours since the spring of 2017. This metric measures the total time admitted patients spend in the emergency department, from the point of registration through testing, treatment and finally admission to an inpatient bed. That mark was nearly 14 hours in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, but improved to 11.6 hours in 2017/18, and now sits at 10.5 hours for the current fiscal year, which began April 1, 2018.

While there is much work left to do to rebuild our health care system after years of neglect under the NDP, this positive trend shows that our plan – designed and being implemented by medical experts – is working. And that is good news for all Manitobans!

NEW MRI ARRIVES IN DAUPHIN



Some great news for the people of Dauphin and the Parkland Region as the new MRI arrived in the community this week.

The new MRI, which was formally announced by Dauphin MLA Brad Michaleski and then-Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen in December 2017, is expected to be fully operational by mid-December 2018 following installation and extensive staff training.

NEW MINISTERIAL MANDATE LETTERS RELEASED

All Manitoba government cabinet ministers have received their updated mandate letters and will be working toward completing the tasks in each of their specific areas, Premier Brian Pallister announced this week.

“Cabinet ministers are responsible for leading their departments through the day-to-day challenges while also ensuring we as a government achieve the goals we have set out,” Pallister said. “We have made real progress on the mandates we issued after Manitobans elected us to govern in 2016, but there is more work to do.”

The letters are posted online and can be viewed at www.manitoba.ca/government/proactivedisclosure/.

MANITOBA EXPANDS POSTING OF GRADE 12 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The Manitoba government has resumed the practice of publishing results of Grade 12 provincial tests at the school division level, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“Sharing these results reflects our government’s commitment to greater transparency and public engagement, and helps us understand where we need to focus our efforts,” said Goertzen. “We encourage school divisions to use this information as benchmarks to plan and monitor performance, as well as engage community members on solutions to local issues.”

The province previously posted results at the division level but moved to releasing provincial-level results in 1999. In 2016, the province increased the scope of public information by breaking down data by region, gender and Indigenous identity. The minister noted the move aligns Manitoba with most other provinces.

“We want to return to a practice that should have never ended and share this valuable information with parents,” said Goertzen. “This data will serve as an additional tool to inform them, as we know test results alone don’t reflect the ways a division supports students and many factors impact a student’s test performance including years of learning in earlier grades.”

The minister also noted provincial assessment results will provide important context for the kindergarten to Grade 12 education system review, which the province will launch in early 2019. The review will include public consultation on a wide range of issues including the quality of education in Manitoba.

Provincial assessment results by school division are posted online at:

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/grad_rates/sd/index.html.

TAKE YOUR MLA TO WORK DAY

On October 26, PC MLAs across Manitoba participated in Take Your MLA to Work Day as part of Disability Employment Awareness Month. MLAs visited businesses in their constituencies that demonstrate inclusive hiring practices and see first-hand the positive contributions that Manitobans with disabilities are making in the workplace.

