

NEWS

Manitoba Association of
HEALTHCARE



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Professionals

MAHCP fighting for health care

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Manitoba's health care system, including our MAHCP members who work in allied health, is facing a tough test.

This is due to several major announcements made by the Pallister government and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority that affect all who work in health care and every Manitoban who relies on our health care system.

In March, Manitoba's government, led by Premier Brian Pallister, tabled Bill 28: The Public Services Sustainability Act and Bill 29: The Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act.

As a quick recap, Bill 28 would establish a four-year wage cap for unionized public sector workers of zeroes in the first two years; 0.75% in the third year; and 1% in the fourth year.

As for Bill 29, this proposed legislation includes: appointing a commissioner to oversee bargaining unit restructuring; reducing the number of bargaining units from 182 to less than 50; and defining the appropriate bargaining units for each region and each provincewide health employer; nurses, physicians, medical residents, physician assistants and clinical

assistants, professional/technical/paramedical employees, facility support employees and community support employees.

WRHA

In April, the WRHA announced that emergency and acute health services will be consolidated at three sites: Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface Hospital and Grace Hospital. The ERs at Seven Oaks Hospital and Victoria Hospital will become Urgent Care Centres, while Concordia, Misericordia, Deer Lodge and Riverview will be "specialized" community hospitals and health centres. In effect, Concordia Hospital will no longer have an ER nor urgent care, and Misericordia will lose its Urgent Care Centre.

Bill 28 and 29 hearings

On May 8, MAHCP President Bob Moroz appeared before the Standing Committees' hearings on Bill 28 and 29, which took place at the Manitoba Legislature, and reiterated to the MLAs and cabinet ministers present that the bargaining table is the best place to deal with the subject of wages, calling Bill 28 "unjust and certainly unfair."

"Solutions such as this bill are also extremely short-sighted. Many of the professions represented by



MAHCP President Bob Moroz, pictured with Wolsley MLA Rob Altemeyer, speaks at the 'Help Save Misericordia Urgent Care Centre' rally on May 4, 2017. Under the WRHA's re-organization, Misericordia will lose its Urgent Care Centre, prompting MLAs from both the NDP and Liberal parties to hold the rally.

lowest rates in the country. There are growing staff shortages in every corner of our workplaces across the province," said Moroz.

"The message that this bill sends to the dedicated women and men who provide the care that Manitobans depend on is that they are nothing more than a cost, that they don't matter. Let me emphasize for the record today that they certainly do matter."