

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

Champion the allied health sector and stand up for a strong and sustainable health-care system for all Manitobans.

Talk to government decision-makers and ask what they are doing to retain, staff up and train more allied health professionals to:

- Address growing staffing gaps.
- Meet government commitments for more beds, more ERs, shorter wait times and increased services closer to home.

## IMPACT EXAMPLE: INCREASING MRI WAIT TIMES

*MRI wait times have climbed back up, now at 20 weeks median wait time compared to the recommended benchmark for elective MRI of 8.5 weeks.*

*Rising wait times are directly tied to insufficient MRI technologist staffing, and Manitoba requires at least 14 more technologists to bring down wait times at current sites, not counting new Northern mobile MRI and permanent MRI in Thompson. Meanwhile, there aren't any MRI technologist positions currently posted, province-wide.*



# MORE OF US MEANS BETTER CARE FOR YOU.

## Manitoba's allied health professionals are:

- 45 specialized professional/technical & paramedical disciplines.
- essential to patient, client and resident care throughout the health-care system.
- integral to prevention, emergency response, diagnostics, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation & recovery.
- relied upon in hospitals, clinics, long-term care and community settings across Manitoba.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Profession: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I will follow up on: \_\_\_\_\_

# MORE OF US MEANS BETTER CARE FOR YOU.



Nearly 8,000 allied health professionals work in our public health-care system across the province delivering essential care and social services to Manitobans.

These are the paramedics, therapists, technologists, counsellors and many others who are a part of every patient's journey, from **emergency medical response to diagnosis, and from treatment through to recovery and rehabilitation.**

Allied health professionals are in **hospitals and clinics, in labs and ambulances, in ICUs and in the community.** Health care is more than doctors and nurses, and Manitobans rely on allied health to be there when they need them.

Due to years of cuts, closures and consolidations, exacerbated by the overwhelming demands of the pandemic, a severely **understaffed and underfunded allied health sector is struggling to deliver the critical services Manitobans need.**

**Growing vacancy rates in allied health professions have compromised patient care,** forcing Manitobans to wait longer and, in many cases, travel further from home to access the care they need.

**Overtime is up, staff morale is down** and experienced health-care professionals are opting for early retirement, leaving for other jobs or moving to other jurisdictions offering better compensation and working conditions.

**We need solutions to attract and retain allied health professionals.**

## IMPACT EXAMPLE: VACANCIES IN RURAL LAB & X-RAY LEADING TO CLOSURES

*Eriksdale's Emergency Department (E.M. Crowe Hospital) was closed an equivalent of 306 days last year due to lack of staffing, including lack of diagnostic (lab & X-ray) staff who are essential to keeping the ER open.*

*Eriksdale has lost three of four laboratory technologists in the last three years, and there aren't any diagnostic positions posted for Eriksdale at this time.*

*One Eriksdale resident recently told CBC: "I think there are people in our community that are going to die because the services aren't there to save their lives."*

More allied health professionals means improved access to care for Manitobans. We recommend three strategic areas of focus for investment:

### Retain our specialized professionals.

- Improve working conditions and work-life balance.
- Complete contract negotiations quickly and with a commitment to competitiveness.
- Listen to frontline staff about what they need.

### Staff up to bring much-needed relief to the front line.

- Post and fill vacancies promptly.
- Create targeted recruitment and retention incentives.

### Recruit and train for the future.

- Review allied health training, increase seats where needed and make training accessible to rural and Northern residents.
- Create targeted bursaries, loans and other incentives for high-demand professions.



## Allied health professions include:

Addictions Treatment & Counselling  
Audiology  
Biomedical Technology  
Cardiology  
Child Life  
Community Health  
Critical Equipment Specialty  
Dental Hygiene & Assisting  
Dietetics  
Electroencephalography (EEG)  
Electromyography (EMG)  
Genetics  
Home Care  
Indigenous Health  
Kinesiology  
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)  
Medical Laboratory Sciences  
Medical Physics  
Mental Health  
Midwifery  
Music Therapy  
Nuclear Medicine  
Occupational Therapy

Ophthalmology/Orthoptics  
Orthopaedics  
Palliative Care  
Paramedicine/Emergency Medical Response  
Patient Transport  
Perfusion  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Polysomnography  
Psychology  
Public Health  
Radiation Protection  
Radiation Therapy  
Radiology  
Radiopharmacy  
Recreation Therapy  
Research  
Respiratory Therapy  
Social Work  
Sonography  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Spiritual Care