

Additional Quotes

“The Manitoba Government has met the modest nurse and health care aide staffing targets they set during the 2023 election, though many more are needed, and they have also made significant progress on adding more doctors. They are clearly not on track with their commitment to add 200 paramedics. The paramedic staffing crisis in rural Manitoba is not going to solve itself. The Manitoba Government must increase targeted retention and recruitment efforts and expand training opportunities for paramedics. They are way behind, and Manitobans who count on paramedics in a medical emergency cannot afford to wait any longer.”

Noah Schulz, Provincial Director, Manitoba Health Coalition

“In the 2023 election, paramedics endorsed the NDP’s plan to add 200 more paramedics. The government has taken an important, long-overdue step by introducing advanced care paramedics in rural Manitoba but is also simultaneously going backwards by reducing the level of care in parts of the province. Paramedics are incredibly disappointed by Shared Health’s restrictive hiring practices, which have frustrated both existing and new paramedics, while vacancies continue to climb. Paramedics want government to keep their promise, but this damage will be incredibly difficult to recover from without rapid engagement and government support.”

Rebecca Clifton, Administrative Director, Paramedic Association of Manitoba

“Paramedics can begin assessing people right away, that’s the level of care we need in our communities. If we could fill all the vacant positions, we could have a paramedic respond to emergency medical calls within 20 minutes. Right now, there’s a good chance you’re waiting up to an hour. My community sponsored a resolution that would get people training for those open paramedic positions right away and pay them while they train. That plan received near unanimous support at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) convention last fall. We need the Manitoba Government to act on it.”

Kelly McMechan, Reeve, Municipality of Deloraine Winchester