



Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness
Minister responsible for Mental Health

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

November 22, 2024

Jane Curtis, CEO, Southern-Health-Santé Sud
Treena Slate, CEO, Prairie Mountain Health
Marion Ellis, CEO, Interlake-Eastman Regional Health Authority
Raj Sewda, CEO, Northern Health Region

Dear Colleagues,

Rebuilding our healthcare system after years of neglect remains the top priority of the people of Manitoba and its provincial government. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of all Manitobans.

To help provide supports while keeping our communities safe and healthy, the Manitoba Government is mandating that all regional health authorities develop comprehensive disposal and clean up plans as a condition for provincial funding for harm reduction activities. Our government will provide \$30,000 in new funding to each of your regional health authorities to help launch these plans.

Funding may be used to install disposal containers in public spaces, launch needle cleanup teams and facilitate safe disposal initiatives tailored to the needs of each region.

Proper disposal plans will help stop the spread of infectious diseases thereby reducing patient loads and hospital wait times and strengthen public safety. The Manitoba Government is committed to working to support those struggling with addictions and to make addictions services more effective. Our actions are guided by the four pillars of prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction.

We want all communities in Manitoba to be safe and healthy places to live and grow. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that our efforts to support people struggling with addictions also make our communities safer and healthier.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation on this important matter of public health and safety.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Smith".

Honourable Bernadette Smith
Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness
Minister responsible for Mental Health

C: Catherine Gates, Deputy Minister of Housing Addictions and Homelessness
Denys Valkov, Executive Director, Association of Manitoba Municipalities