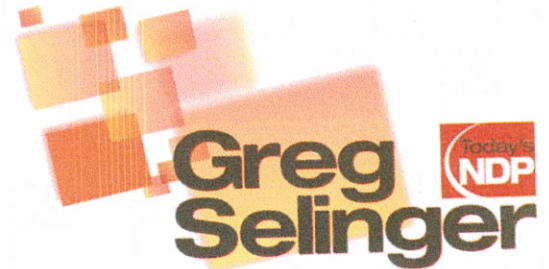


April 8, 2016

[president@mps.ca](mailto:president@mps.ca)



Dear Drs. Piotrowski and Sztaba,

Thank you for your letter about psychological and mental health services.

The Manitoba NDP believe that all Manitobans should have access to the mental health services they need and we have made steady progress towards this goal. We tripled investments in mental health services and agencies, but we know there is more to do.

Please find answers to your specific questions below.

**1. What will your party do to address the significant barriers that exist for Manitobans in accessing psychological and mental health services?**

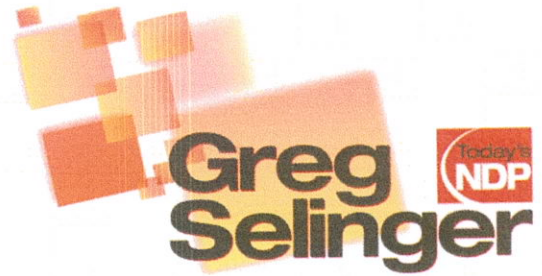
Our party has taken steps to improve mental health services across the province. We are helping improve accessibility in the north by building a new \$7-million facility in Thompson that will help youth access mental health and addictions services and supporting the northern mobile crisis team to help young people struggling with addiction and suicide.

We have built a standalone Mental Health Crisis Response Centre at HSC and developed the Program for Assertive Community Treatment to help people with persistent and severe mental illnesses. We are creating a new community-based intervention and outreach team for children and youth with complex needs and are expanding teen mental health care at four Teen Clinics and the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre as part of our Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy.

We know that these steps bring us closer to meeting the mental health needs of all Manitobans but we have more to do.

**2. Does your party platform contain anything related to developing new models of mental and behavioural health provision, with the involvement of various health professionals, including psychologists?**

We are open to discussing new models of mental and behavioural health provision with psychologists and other health professionals. We have committed new funding for youth mental health support and continue to support our health care system. This is at risk with Brian Pallisters planned health care cuts.



**3. Does your party platform address the need for parity in funding for physical and mental health? If so, how?**

We are not proposing services based on a parity model but are committed to developing expanded preventative and acute care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KB", written over a horizontal line.

Keith Bellamy  
NDP Provincial Secretary