



MANITOBA PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ DES PSYCHOLOGUES DU MANITOBA

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The Manitoba Psychological Society (MPS) recognizes that your party has an important opportunity to improve the quality of life for all Manitobans; “without mental health, there can be no true physical health,” (Chisholm, 1954). As such, our members and other fellow constituents look forward to your answers to the following questions, as they consider how they will vote in the upcoming election.

- Manitoba has the smallest per capita rate of psychologists in the country (20 psychologists per 100,000 Manitobans compared to 53 psychologists per 100,000 Canadians; CIHI, 2023). This statistic is alarming from both a healthcare and fiscal perspective as the efficacy and cost savings associated with evidence-based psychological services have both been well documented (every \$1.00 spend on psychology services yields a \$5.00 savings on medical costs; Canadian Psychological Association, J. Hunsley, 2002). Both the Peachey and Virgo reports recommend increasing the number of psychologists to be closer to the national average. More recently in August of this year, Doctor’s Manitoba released a Prescription for Improving Health which also recommends increasing the number of psychologists in Manitoba [Doctors Manitoba | Doctors Offer Prescription for Improving Health...](#)

Although several new psychologist positions have been created in the public health system over the past year, we still have a long way to go to come closer to the national average. In addition, while these positions are a positive step, the system will have to find psychologists to fill them.

What does your party plan to do to address this ongoing shortage?

What specific steps does your party plan to take in order to recruit and retain psychologists in Manitoba’s public healthcare system?

What additional steps does your party plan to take in order to recruit and retain psychologists in rural, northern, and remote Manitoba communities?

AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Psychological Association \* American Psychological Association  
Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists

- Manitobans currently have the option of accessing the services of psychologists through the public healthcare system or through the private system. This latter option is not currently financially supported by Manitoba Health and requires Manitobans to pay out of pocket or utilize extended health insurance benefits, which are often insufficient to support an adequate diagnostic assessment and/or course of treatment.

What is your party's position on Manitoba Health financially supporting residents' access to private psychology services?

We look forward to posting the responses from all political parties on our website, our social media platforms, and emailing the responses to all our members.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jo Ann Unger, C.Psych.  
President, MPS



Dr. Karen Dyck, C.Psych.  
Executive Director, MPS

**About:**

*The Manitoba Psychological Society (MPS) is a non-profit organization of Manitoba psychologists founded in 1966. Its purpose is to further the use of psychology, as a science and profession, in the service of human health, welfare, and quality of life. MPS advocates for the use of psychological knowledge in the formulation of public policy and in the implementation of services for the public in addition to promoting the advancement of psychological education, research, and training. For more details, please go to [www.mps.ca](http://www.mps.ca).*

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