



MPS Questionnaire 2023:

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?**

*Manitoba Liberals are the only party that has thus far released a comprehensive plan to address the critical shortage of psychologists in the province.*

*We recognize that mental health care IS healthcare. We have a serious shortage of psychologists and psychological nurses in the province which means that many people struggling with mental health issues and vulnerable people do not have proper access to the resources they need to better themselves.*

*Manitoba Liberals are committed to making mental health care part of our provincial health care system, by making regulated psychotherapy part of medicare. This means that instead of having to go into your pocket to pay for therapy, it would be covered through your provincial health plan.*

*We know that we cannot implement this type of coverage without bolstering the capacity of psychologists in the province and strengthening the recruitment of new trained professionals into the system. We've announced significant investments into our post-secondary institutions to not only recruit new psychologists into the system, but also to ensure that we strengthen clinical programs and training opportunities are available to*

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

*We are at a critical juncture for our entire healthcare system. We are facing significant shortages due to resignations across our healthcare system, and decades of NDP and PC governments did not train enough doctors and nurses, despite being warned that a shortage was coming.*

*We need to recognize that Manitoba already has incredible 'factories' for training psychologists, doctors, nurses, and more. These 'factories' need investment to expand their capacity.*

*To recruit, a Manitoba Liberal government will invest in the University of Manitoba's Department of Psychology and other post secondary institutions to expand training. Specifically, we will work with the University of Manitoba to create a new Doctor of Psychology program (PsyD) that will train psychologists more quickly and expand the number of psychotherapy practitioners in the province.*

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

*Accessible mental healthcare remains a significant issue. Manitoba Liberals want to ensure that every Manitoba has timely access to mental healthcare.*

*Aside from our recruitment plan mentioned previously, we want to boost the capacity of our post-secondary institutions to give students greater opportunity to provide services in rural and northern communities. We will work to provide the funding so that there are increased practicums to work in north and rural Manitoba. We also want to ensure remote service delivery options remain available.*

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?**

*Manitoba Liberals support accessible psychological services. We also recognize that certain people and professions may experience mental health issues disproportionately from others. A Manitoba Liberal government will cover burnout and mental injuries for workers under the Workers' Compensation Board. We want to strengthen the public system so that everyone has equal access to quality psychological services.*