



Sept. 28, 2023

Dear Dr. Unger and Dr. Dyck,

Thank you for engaging us in this critical election. We appreciate the advocacy from the Manitoba Psychological Society and all that your members do to serve Manitoba families. We recognize that mental health is an essential part of our healthcare system. We also recognize that currently Manitoba is failing to provide the mental health services families need.

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

The Manitoba NDP agree Manitoba must not have fewer psychologists than the national average. As part of our \$500-million recruitment strategy to hire more healthcare professionals, we will work with the Manitoba Psychological Society, the University of Manitoba and other stakeholders to develop plans to increase the number of mental health professionals in our province while retaining our current workforce.

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

We will properly fund our healthcare system, stop the PC cuts, and treat all healthcare workers with respect. We want to restore trust with healthcare workers. In addition to improving access to post-secondary training, financial incentives for recruitment and retention, and hiring to improve access and reduce burnout, we want to better integrate mental health into primary care.

We will support team-based primary care clinics where families can have their needs met. These teams can include family doctors, nurse practitioners, mental health providers, physician's assistants, social workers, pharmacists and other allied health professionals.

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

The Manitoba NDP is committed to supporting healthcare centres in rural, northern and remote areas of the province where healthcare professionals from a variety of fields will be able to collaborate to support the good care for patients. This initiative will respond to local community health needs while complementing services already available in local clinics. In addition to recruiting psychologists to work locally, we will equip rural and Northern health centres with innovative health technology. We'll improve rural broadband to connect rural patients with specialists following a team-based model.

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

The Manitoba NDP is committed to consulting with the Manitoba Psychological Society on how best to improve access to mental health services for families.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to respond. The Manitoba NDP look forward to working with the Manitoba Psychological Society to make healthcare better, together.

Sincerely,

The Manitoba NDP