

December 8, 2015

**PROVINCE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT
ON FUTURE OF HOME CARE SERVICES**

As part of the work of Manitoba's Home Care Leadership Team launched earlier this year, Manitobans are invited to share their perspectives and recommendations on home care in an online consultation, Health Minister Sharon Blady announced today.

"As our population, particularly the baby-boomer generation, ages, we need to find ways to strengthen services to meet the needs of Manitobans now and in the future," said Minister Blady. "I look forward to hearing the ideas of clients, family members, caregivers and others about how we can build a stronger home care system to help people remain in their homes as long as possible."

The public is being invited to provide recommendations and suggestions about the future of home care services in Manitoba as part of a broader consultation process recommended by recognized health system leader Reg Toews. This feedback will be considered by the Home Care Leadership Team as it reviews and considers the most effective structure and service delivery for home care in the future, the minister said.

"This website will be an important part of ensuring there is an opportunity to get the input of clients, caregivers and others," said Reg Toews, chair, Home Care Leadership Team. "I hope people will take this opportunity to share their experiences."

The minister noted the team includes experienced representatives who reflect a range of facets of home care services and Manitoba's regional health authorities,

as well as clients/family caregivers and stakeholders. The consultation process is underway, with more than 40 meetings held with more than 100 people.

The leadership team is also reviewing recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General and the Brian Sinclair and Frank Alexander inquests. As well, the review is considering information to better understand the national and international context for home-care services, Minister Blady said.

A comprehensive plan for the future of Manitoba's publicly funded home care services will take into consideration short- and long-term human resources, ensuring consistent provincewide services and developing a reliable system, regardless of one's ability to pay, the minister said. This long-term plan will also include a review of relevant literature and reports and an analysis of information and data, she added.

The minister noted home care is not an insured service under the Canada Health Act and that it is solely funded and managed by the province.

In September 1974, coverage for home care services was established in Manitoba. Home care is provided to Manitobans of all ages based on assessed need and with consideration for other resources available to the individual including family supports, community resources and other programs.

To share thoughts and perspectives on home care, visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/homecare/consultation.html before Jan. 15, 2016.