



Via e-mail: premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

December 16, 2010

The Honourable Gregory Selinger
Premier of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Re: Nurse practitioner-led clinics

Dear Premier Selinger,

On behalf of the board and membership of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), I wish to applaud your government's decision to introduce nurse practitioner-led quick-care clinics in Manitoba. CNA has long advocated for faster, more responsive care at the community level and a renewed emphasis on primary care.

Not only will this new initiative have a positive impact on wait times in Manitoba, it will allow better patient access to the most appropriate care at the right time and the right place. As Manitoba's health minister Oswald aptly put it, "Every Manitoban deserves access to a family doctor, but they don't necessarily need to see their doctor for every health concern. That's why nurse practitioners, registered nurses and other health providers are critical to our plan. More doctors are only one part of the solution."

This very positive sign demonstrates that Manitoba is adapting its health system to the needs of its population. The alarming rise in chronic illness, for example, means that more coordinated and collaborative support systems are required to help patients manage their conditions. Nurse practitioner-led clinics in other jurisdictions have been very positive in this and other regards.

CNA has a wealth of information and tools available to support your province in its integration efforts, including our [Health Human Resources Planning Simulation Model for NPs in Primary Health Care](#), and [advanced nursing practice framework](#) documents and materials. For direct assistance, please contact Barb Wright at bwright@cna-aiic.ca or (613) 237-2159 ext. 525.

Innovations such as the new quick-care clinics are an important step toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of our health system, as they reduce the long-term costs of more drastic medical interventions and expensive hospitalizations down the road. Congratulations on your leadership. We hope that other provinces will follow your example.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith Shamian".

Judith Shamian, RN, PhD, LLD (hon), D.Sci. (hon), FAAN
President