

July 9, 2020

Abe Araya, President of CUPE Manitoba

Daniel Richards, Chairperson of CUPE Private Personal Care Home Committee

Debbie Boissonneault, President of CUPE 204

Darrin Cook, President of CUPE 4270

Christine Lussier, President of CUPE 8600

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Dear Abe Araya, Daniel Richards, Debbie Boissonneault, Darrin Cook and Christine Lussier:

Your letter and CUPE Manitoba Recommendations to Improve Long-Term Care in Manitoba report has been referred to me for response on behalf of Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen. Thank you for sharing this valuable information.

Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted long-term care facilities across Canada. MHSAL is reviewing the experiences in other jurisdictions and the resulting report recommendations undertaken in an effort to learn from them and mitigate these impacts in Manitoba. Across Manitoba, health authorities have undertaken actions to decrease the risk of COVID-19 spread, including implementing strict infection and control precautions, enhanced cleaning protocols, daily screening of staff, the introduction of a single-site staffing model in licensed personal care homes, and restrictions on visitations. These actions have been undertaken to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens and the health care providers who care for them.

The Manitoba government remains committed to advancing health system transformation efforts, including improved older adult care through establishing more safe spaces and care options. Your recommendations and the full report will be shared with health system transformation teams working to modernize care for Manitoba's older adults. These are unprecedented times and collaborative efforts are required of all Manitobans to ensure the safety of families, friends and communities.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Teresa Mrozek
Assistant Deputy Minister

c The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier
Honourable Cameron Friesen