



Health, Seniors and Active Living

Deputy Minister

Room 310 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

JUN 19 2020

Debbie Boissonneault, President of CUPE 204
Darrin Cook, President of CUPE 4270
Christine Lussier, President of CUPE 8600
c/o Donalee Tauber: dtauber@cupe.ca

Dear Debbie Boissonneault, Darrin Cook and Christine Lussier:

Your letter concerning the health and safety of home care workers and personal protective equipment (PPE) has been referred to me for response on behalf of Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen. I apologize for the delay.

These are unprecedented times, and the Manitoba government is working to ensure the safety of all Manitobans. Across Manitoba, health authorities have undertaken actions to decrease the risk of COVID-19 spread, including implementing of strict infection and control precautions, enhanced cleaning protocols and daily screening of staff before shift. As you mentioned, in collaboration with infection prevention and control experts and public health experts, Shared Health has established provincial guidelines based on the best available evidence for the use of PPE in various health care settings, including home care, available here: sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/. The guidelines were most recently updated on May 7, 2020, and will continue to be reviewed and updated as the situation evolves.

Manitoba and the health authorities will continue to work with our partners locally, nationally and internationally to maintain our supply of PPE for health care workers. Shared Health and the health authorities continue to monitor and ensure that standards of care are being upheld and appropriate PPE is available to staff to best serve health care clients.

The government appreciates the efforts of all front-line workers during COVID-19. We will continue, along with health authorities, to work with unions to discuss fair and appropriate compensation for services. We have also taken necessary steps to redirect funding to support health care efforts during this time.

Ongoing collaboration and sharing of necessary information between Manitoba's unions, health care authorities, regulatory bodies and government is critical to our collective efforts to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on all Manitobans. We appreciate CUPE's efforts to ensure its members are safe as they provide essential services to Manitobans during these unprecedented times. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Karen Herd, CA