

November 16, 2022

The Manitoba Public Health Association
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The Honourable Heather Stefanson
Premier of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
By email: premier@leg.gov.mb.ca
cc: The Honourable Sarah Guillemard, Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness
The Honourable Audrey Gordon, Minister of Health

Dear Premier and Ministers,

The Manitoba Public Health Association (MPHA) is in full support of the letter dated Oct. 31, 2022 and signed by over 80 organizations regarding [Urgent Action Required for Direct Action to Address the Overdose Deaths and Toxic Drug Supply in Manitoba](#).

We recognize the urgency of the escalating overdose crisis in Manitoba and call on all levels of government, and particularly the Manitoba government responsible for health and mental health, to enact evidence-based harm reduction interventions immediately to save lives. Ample evidence demonstrating the benefits of harm reduction exists to justify acting now. The MPHA supports the seven specific immediate actions outlined in the letter. We wish to underscore the need for supervised consumption sites in Manitoba in particular. Being one of the few provinces without one represents an appalling gap in our approach to the overdose and toxic drug supply crisis.

Public health evidence and public opinion both support moving quickly towards protecting the lives of people who use drugs. We urge you to act now and save lives.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sande Harlos".

Sande Harlos, President
On behalf of the Manitoba Public Health Association

The Manitoba Public Health Association is a volunteer run, non-profit, non-governmental organization that advocates for social justice, reconciliation, and equity for the health of Manitobans.