



Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

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The Honourable Erin Selby
Minister of Health
Room 302 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0V8

November 30th, 2014

Dear Minister Selby

This year the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba passed a resolution calling on the Province of Manitoba to include pelvic floor therapy in the services covered by Manitoba Health Insurance. Pelvic floor therapy is the most cost effective way of dealing with urinary and fecal incontinence. We realize that the province has to tightly control expenditures, but extending coverage to pelvic floor therapy might actually be a cost saving measure. It can keep the elderly independent for longer periods of time, and it is a far less costly treatment than surgery to repair damage caused by pregnancy and childbirth. Please see our attached resolution.

Home care services required to deal with these intimate health conditions, are very personal and invasive and create additional hardships for the patient and the health care /home care providers. Timely diagnosis and treatment as well as public education should be important priorities in our health care system. If prevention and timely treatment can eliminate or reduce the incidence of these medical conditions, everyone stands to benefit. The woman can remain socially active which can reduce isolation and depression; and the health care providers' load can be lightened considerably, potentially affecting the challenge of recruiting and retaining competent and compassionate staff.

Currently the service in Winnipeg is being provided by private clinics, and the \$60 per session cost is prohibitive for women with low income. Few women who have a problem with incontinence know about the service and are too embarrassed to discuss the problem with their physicians. As far as we know, the only non-surgical treatment for incontinence in Winnipeg covered by Medicare was provided by a nurse continence advisor at the Riverview Health Center. She has now retired and has not been replaced.

We would like to have a meeting with you, and your colleague Sharon Blady, the Minister of Healthy Living and Seniors, to discuss the resolution early in the new year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Taylor
President PCWM

Honourary Patroness, Her Honour Anita K. Lee
In Federation with the National Council of Women of Canada www.ncwc.ca
<http://www.pcwmanitoba.ca>