

April 1, 2004

Dear Pharmacy Manager/Owner:

RE: Renewal of Pharmacy Provider in Personal Care Home Agreement:

On behalf of the Personal Care Homes (PCH) Negotiating Committee, I am writing to bring you up to date on developments with respect to our ongoing efforts to renew the terms of the current PCH agreement. In previous correspondence you will recall we expressed our frustration with the lack of progress and specifically that to date we have not received a formal offer from Manitoba Health (MB Health).

In early March 2004, surveys were sent out to PCH Pharmacy Providers. We received responses approaching 70%, and of those all but one indicated that PCH Negotiating Committee must adopt a more aggressive position with the Provincial Government. A large majority of respondents indicated that they would be prepared to provide 30 days notice of their intention to provide pharmacy services which are "non-compliant with Standards".

Based on these results the PCH Negotiating Committee wrote to Premier Gary Doer on March 12, 2004, to bring his attention to our situation which includes more than 10 years without an increase in compensation. In that correspondence, we indicated that if no progress is made in our negotiations by April 1, 2004, pharmacy providers will be instructed to notify PCHs that they will no longer provide a pharmacy service that complies with the Provincial Standards. We made it clear to the Premier that this was not our preferred option, but that MB Health's inaction had generated this response.

After several phone calls a meeting this past Friday took place with MB Health. Based on the commitments made by Bev Ann Murray, Assistant Deputy Minister, MB Health, in her [letter](#) dated March 30, 2004, the PCH Negotiating Committee has agreed to hold off taking any action in April (see [letter](#) dated March 31, 2004). The Committee expects to receive a formal offer from MB Health in April and that meaningful negotiations will take place over the next 30 days.

At this time, the PCH Negotiating Committee asks Pharmacy Providers to exercise further patience. We will endeavor to keep you informed of developments and will communicate with you no later than May 1, 2004.

Your attention to this correspondence is appreciated. If you would like to provide the PCH Negotiating Committee with any feedback, please fax us at 956-6686.

Yours truly,



Jason Pankratz

Enclosure

