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Breaking News

Province, MMA reach deal to keep doctors in rural MB

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The Manitoba Medical Association has inked a three-year deal with the provincial government to keep more doctors working in rural Manitoba, the province said Monday.

The agreement with the province's 2,800 physicians will see doctors get on average a 7.5 per cent fee-for-service increase over next three years.

Health Minister Theresa Oswald said some areas of the medical system will see higher increases and some less depending on need.

For example, the deal raises the pay differential for doctors working in rural and northern Manitoba. Doctors working in Brandon and rural areas get a 2.5 per cent bump while those working in the north get an increase to 25 per cent from 10 per cent to the northern geographic premium.

The contract will also see government spend an additional \$100 million over three years to increase compensation to doctors.

MMA president Dr. Robyn Olson said the agreement puts Manitoba doctors on a more equal footing to Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Olson said the increase means more doctors will be recruited to work in Manitoba.

The deal was supported by 93 per cent of MMA members.