

October 6, 2021

Dear Honourable Heather Stefanson,

As the former Minister of Health and Seniors Care, you would have received communication from our Human Rights Triage Protocol Coalition. Our group has been advocating for Triage Protocols, in our province, that acknowledge that this is a Human Rights issue that has significant impact on vulnerable people with disabilities, older people and other vulnerable groups. Most recently, we provided two documents to yourself, as the Minister of Health and Seniors Care, and Shared Health, that lay out the arguments for the need for such a protocol, together with a set of recommendations. We understand that you may not have had to time to carefully review and consider our recommendations, in light of all your responsibilities. Hopefully you can now take some time to consider these documents at [www.hrtpc.ca](http://www.hrtpc.ca).

There has been no action in response to our repeated requests for a Triage Protocol and we feel an overwhelming sense of urgency, as the crises in Alberta and Saskatchewan unfolds and our own province experiences the 4<sup>th</sup> wave. This is a human rights issue of significant proportions. We call upon the Government of Manitoba to take proactive steps and inform Shared Health that it has a legal obligation to ensure that disabled persons, older persons and other vulnerable persons are not intentionally or systemically discriminated against. The best way to do this is for Shared Health to introduce triage protocols that are transparent and based on human rights principles. We hope that as one of the candidates for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, you are willing to take a positive stand on this issue. As you may know, the importance and urgency of this issue has attracted media attention. We sincerely hope that it will attract your attention as well. We are asking that you respond to our concerns as soon as possible. You can connect with our Coalition through me, as the Chair of the group, at [leslie@abilitiesmanitoba.org](mailto:leslie@abilitiesmanitoba.org).

Yours truly:

Leslie Udell – Chairperson – Human Rights Triage Protocol Coalition

Human Rights Triage Protocols Coalition

Leslie Udell - **Abilities Manitoba**

Leanne Fenez – **Barrier Free Manitoba**

Cheryl Martens - **Barrier Free Manitoba**

Debra Roach - **Family Advocacy Network**

Suzanne Swanton - **Continuity Care**

David Kron - **Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba, Barrier Free Manitoba**

Valerie Wolbert - **Self-advocate**

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Michelle M Porter, PhD - **Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba**

Mary J. Shariff, PhD - **Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba**

Nancy E Hansen, PhD - **Disability Studies, University of Manitoba**

Heidi Janz, PhD - **Council of Canadians with Disabilities**

Yvonne Peters - **Human Rights expert**

Albert Boakye – **Social Planning Council of Winnipeg**