

September 10, 2020

To: Honourable Premier Brian Pallister  
Premier of Manitoba

Honourable Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Health, Seniors & Active Living

Cc: Matt Wiebe, MLA for Concordia  
Jim Maloway, MLA for Elmwood  
James Teitsma, MLA for Radisson  
Nello Altomare, MLA for Transcona

RE: Save CancerCare at Concordia Hospital

As nurses that work at the CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) Concordia site, we are reaching out to you to express our concerns regarding its pending closure due to restructuring and consolidation within CCMB Manitoba. The site closure is currently scheduled for December, although no firm date has been provided. Apparently the Seven Oaks CCMB site is also scheduled to close in the coming months.

To say we are disappointed is a huge understatement. These closures would eliminate the two locations which service the population in the northeast and northwest end of our city. On the CCMB website, under "About Us", it states: "Manitoba patients can receive care close to home thanks to CCMB's partnerships with regional health authorities". Under "Our Mission" on that same website it states: "To reduce and, where possible, eliminate the burden of cancer on the people of Manitoba...". Closing down the site in the Concordia community (i.e. north city site) is in our opinion, contrary to what CCMB's goals of patient care are and would most certainly increase the burden for the people we are trying to help.

Many of our patients have expressed their disappointment with the news. They state this will have a definite impact on their cancer journey. A few of the concerns are: transportation issues - family/friends taking extra time to drive the increased distance and waiting time; lack of finances for the increased cost of parking; meeting new staff and navigating a new location and doing all this with no support person allowed. One patient stated this will affect her decision on whether she will even continue on treatment at all. All of these factors contribute to an increased burden for the patients in the northeast sector of the city.

We are concerned that this decision has more to do with saving money rather than what is in the best interest of patients. We feel strongly it is not in the best interest of the patients CancerCare aims to serve. We request that you intercede immediately on behalf of patients suffering with cancer in the northeast region and beyond (East. St. Paul, Oakbank, etc.).

Sincerely,

The CCMB Concordia Staff

CCMB Concordia Staff Signatures:

