



# Toward a Sustainable Community-Based, Medical First Response

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

Manitoba Municipal Relations – Office of the Fire Commissioner

April 10, 2024

- We acknowledge that we are gathered on Treaty 2 Territory and that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Nehethowuk nations.
- We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.
- We acknowledge that northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of Inuit.

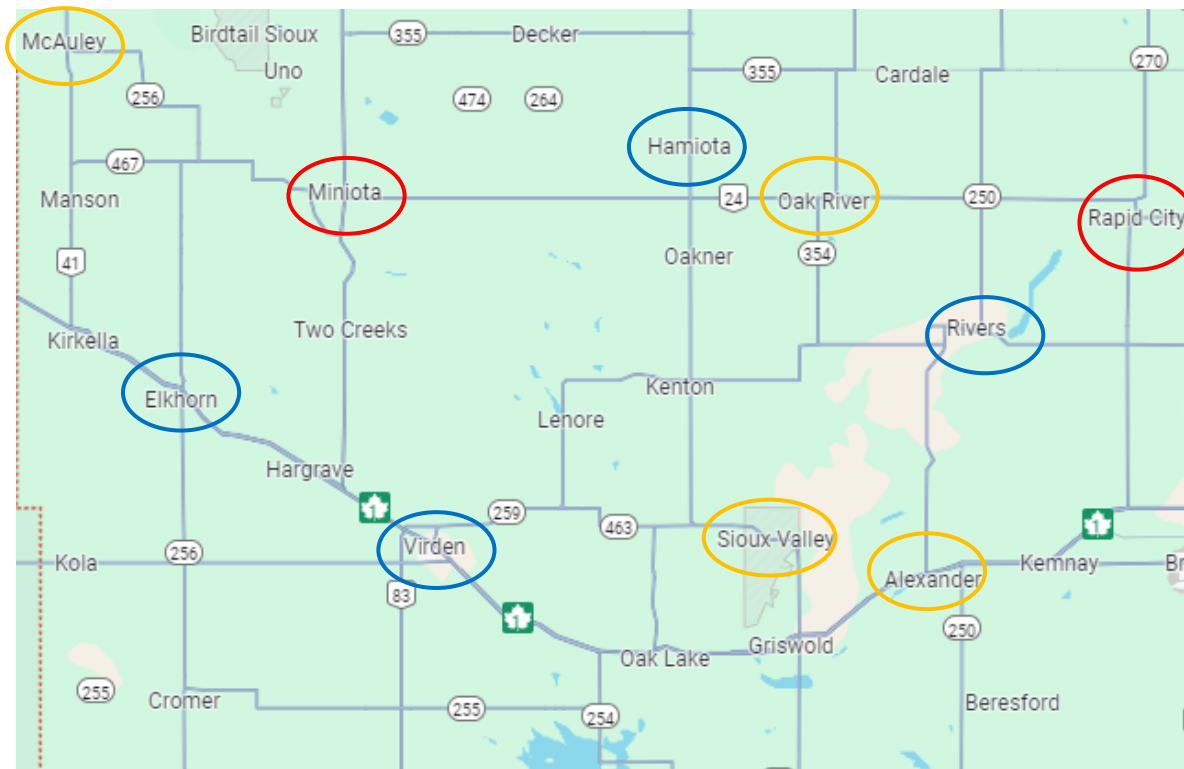




# **Our Discussion**

- **Medical First Response in Manitoba**
- **What We've Heard**
- **Community Consultation**
- **Proposed Model for Future**
- **What's Next**
- **Questions**

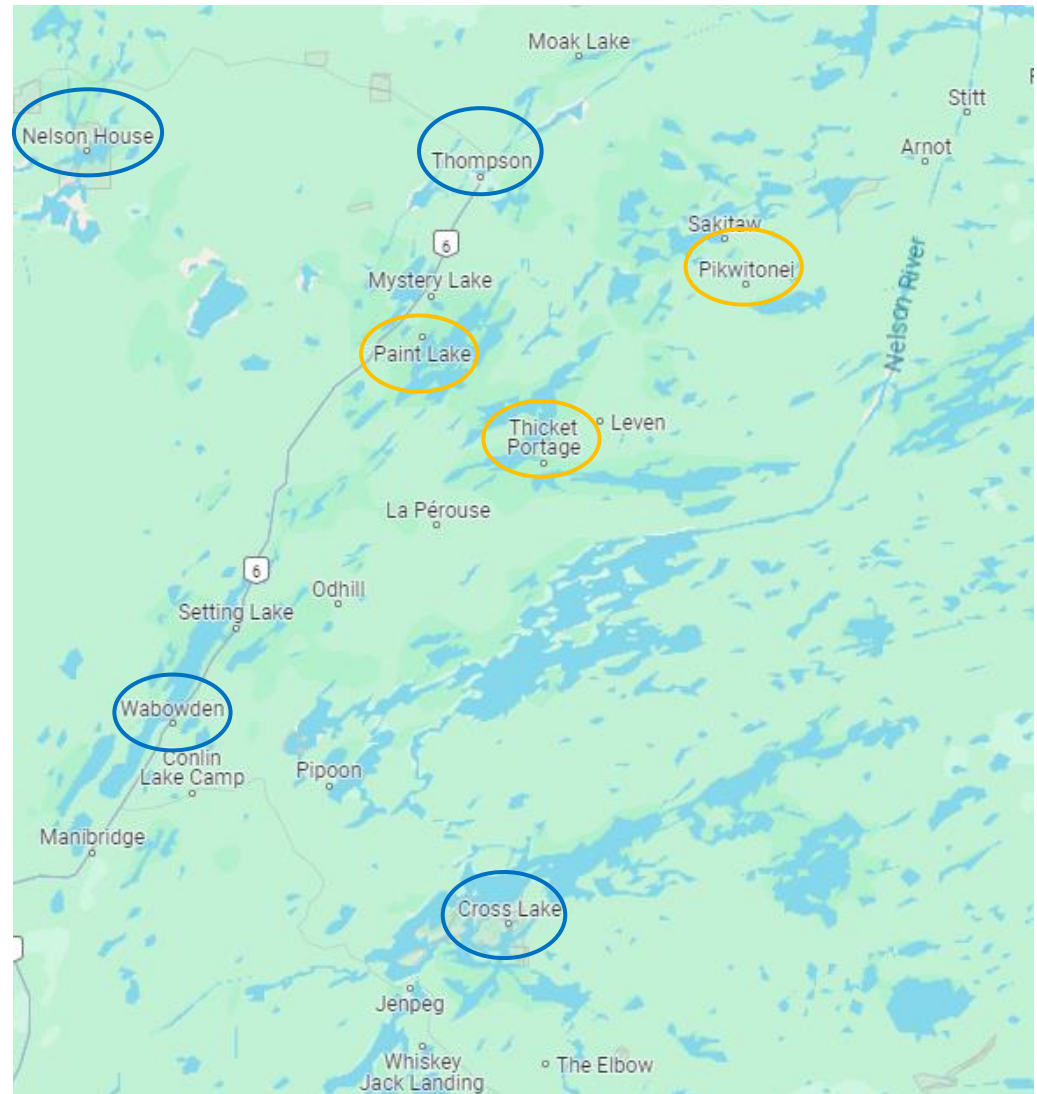
# Medical First Response in Western Manitoba



- A serious car accident occurs in Two Creeks.
- Depending on available resources, an ambulance could take 15 minutes to over an hour.
- As Miniota Fire Department is licensed to provide Medical First Response, a first responder can attend the scene in under 9 minutes.

# Medical First Response in Northern Manitoba

- A serious accident occurs near Paint Lake.
- The closest ambulance stations are Thompson and Wabowden.
- Ambulance response is likely to take over an hour.
- Thicket Portage and Paint Lake both have volunteer fire services, but do not currently deliver Medical First Response.
- Patients must wait for an available ambulance.



# Medical First Response in Manitoba

- Historically, many municipalities delivered medical first response that enabled:
  - Dispatch from local fire hall to first response at the same time as an ambulance
  - Volunteers trained as Emergency Medical Responders or paramedics to support their communities
  - Reduced response times and time-sensitive, life-saving intervention
  - Supplement to provincial ambulance response



# Medical First Response in Manitoba

- In 2013, an emergency medical services review task force created a working group which included Medical First Response services.
- A Medical First Response model was recommended five years later but was tabled due to higher level health system transformation.

# Medical First Response in Manitoba

- In 2020, changes were made to training and licensing requirements for Emergency Medical Responders
  - Increased training requirement from 120 hours to 312 hours
  - Increased training cost from \$1,200 to approximately \$4,400
  - Required responders to be registered with College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB) at annual cost of \$550
  - Required responders to obtain personal liability insurance at annual cost starting at \$75



# Current Medical First Response Options

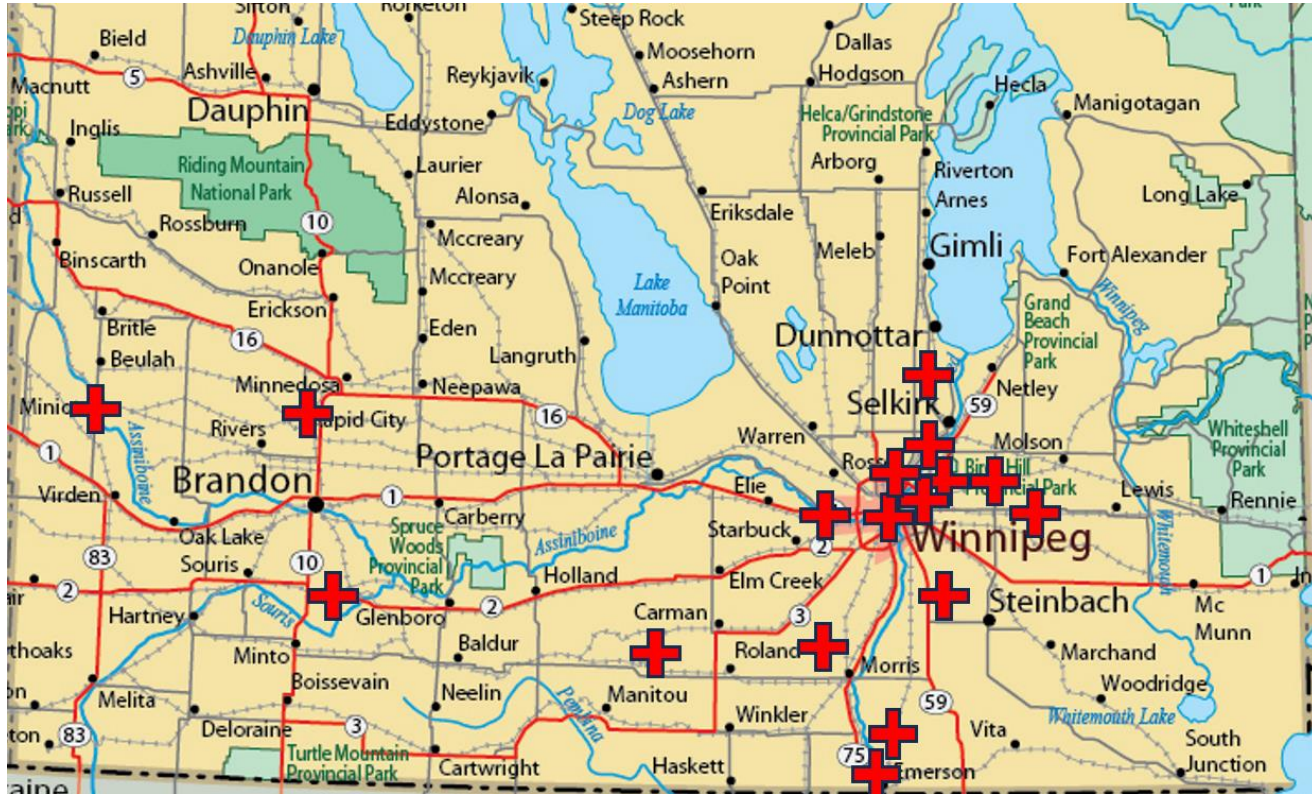
## No medical first response

- No medical care until ambulance arrives

## Community-based medical first response prior to arrival of ambulance

- Medical care by Emergency Medical Responder or paramedic prior to arrival of ambulance

# Medical First Response in Manitoba



Currently, licensed Medical First Response systems are located in: Anola, Birds Hill, Clondeboye, Dominion City, Emerson, Headingley, Miami, Middlechurch, Miniota, Niverville, North Transcona, Oakbank, Rapid City, Rosenort, St. Andrews, Wawanesa, and Winnipeg

# What We've Heard

Municipalities have raised concerns regarding barriers to provision of adequate and sustainable emergency response

- Training time commitment
- Cost of training, registration fees, and insurance
- Challenges retaining and recruiting volunteers with required training

# Community Consultation

- Government established a working group to develop options to address challenges experienced by communities:
  - Manitoba Health Seniors and Long-Term Care
  - Municipal Relations' Office of the Fire Commissioner
  - Shared Health
  - College of Paramedics of Manitoba
  - Association of Manitoba Municipalities
  - Municipal fire representatives: Headingley, Miniota, Niverville, Pipestone, Thompson, West St. Paul
- Held Medical First Response Summit in April 2023
- Conducted in-person and virtual consultation sessions with several municipalities

# Proposed Medical First Response Options

No medical first response

- No medical care until ambulance arrives

Community-based medical first response prior to arrival of ambulance

Emergency Medical Responder (EXISTING)

- Trained in emergency first response and registered with CPMB

First Responder (NEW)

- Trained in advanced first aid
- No registration requirement

# Qualifications

## Emergency Medical Responder (existing)

- Volunteer
- Minimum 18 years old
- Trained as an Emergency Medical Responder or paramedic
- Registered with CPMB
- Liability insurance required
- System is licensed by Manitoba, individual responder is not
- Competency maintained through CPMB requirements and by employer quality assurance

## First Responder (proposed)

- Volunteer
- Minimum 18 years old
- Trained in advanced first aid and basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- No CPMB registration
- Liability insurance not required
- System is licensed by Manitoba, individual responder is not
- Competency maintained through recertifications and by employer quality assurance



# Scope of Practice - Skills

## Emergency Medical Responder (existing)

- Tourniquet
- Oral pharyngeal airway (OPA) and nasopharyngeal airway (NPA) devices
- Bag valve mask ventilation
- CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Vital sign assessment
- Collect medical history
- Wound care including irrigation
- Eye irrigation

## First Responder (proposed)

- Tourniquet
- OPA device
- Bag valve mask ventilation
- CPR and AED
- Checking vital signs
- Wound care
- Eye irrigation



# Scope of Practice - Medication

## Emergency Medical Responder (existing)

- Assist patient with prescribed medications
- Independently administer oxygen and naloxone
- Independently administer acetylsalicylic acid (for cardiac-related discomfort), epinephrine injector, glucose, salbutamol
- Independently administer acetaminophen, ibuprofen

## First Responder (proposed)

- Assist patient with prescribed medications
- Independently administer oxygen and naloxone
- When directed by the Manitoba Transportation Coordination Centre dispatch, administer acetylsalicylic acid (for cardiac-related discomfort) and glucose
- When previously prescribed, administer epinephrine auto-injector and salbutamol

# Practical Difference in Response

Life–Threatening Problem	Emergency Medical Responder can assist	First Responder can assist
Cardiac arrest	✓	✓
Severe bleeding	✓	✓
Obstructed airway	✓	✓
Not breathing	✓	✓
Narcotic overdose	✓	✓

# Practical Difference in Response

Potentially Life-Threatening Problem	Emergency Medical Responder can assist	First Responder can assist
Anaphylaxis	✓	✓ with 911 consult
Heart attack	✓	✓ with 911 consult
Hypoglycemia	✓	✓ with 911 consult
Asthma attack	✓	✓ if prior prescription
Pain	✓	✗

# What's Next

- The department continues to engage stakeholders and the public to inform a sustainable future model of medical first response.
- Regulatory amendments have been drafted to reflect proposed changes and are **now posted publicly** for a 45-day regulatory consultation period.
- Feedback can be provided **until May 24, 2024** by visiting the EngageMB website.
- Feedback collected and any recommended changes will be addressed by government.

# What's Next

Until proposed changes are finalized, municipal medical first response must be provided only by trained Emergency Medical Responders or paramedics registered with CPMB.

# What's Next

Should proposed changes come into effect, municipalities may then move forward with provision of medical first response by First Responders, Emergency Medical Responders, paramedics, or a combination.

# What's Next

In all circumstances, municipalities choosing to provide medical first response services would:

- Determine appropriate model of response for community
- Acquire appropriate resources and equipment
- Enter into service agreement with Shared Health
- Apply for licence with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care



# Questions?

## Panelists:

- Office of the Fire Commissioner – Ryan Schenk
- College of Paramedics of Manitoba – Corene Debreuil
- Shared Health – Jason Little, Chad Chapman
- Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care – Ron Oberlin



**Provide your feedback now!**

**<https://engagemb.ca/land-emergency-medical-response-system-regulation-amendment-and-regulated-health-professions-general-regulation-amendment>**