



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.

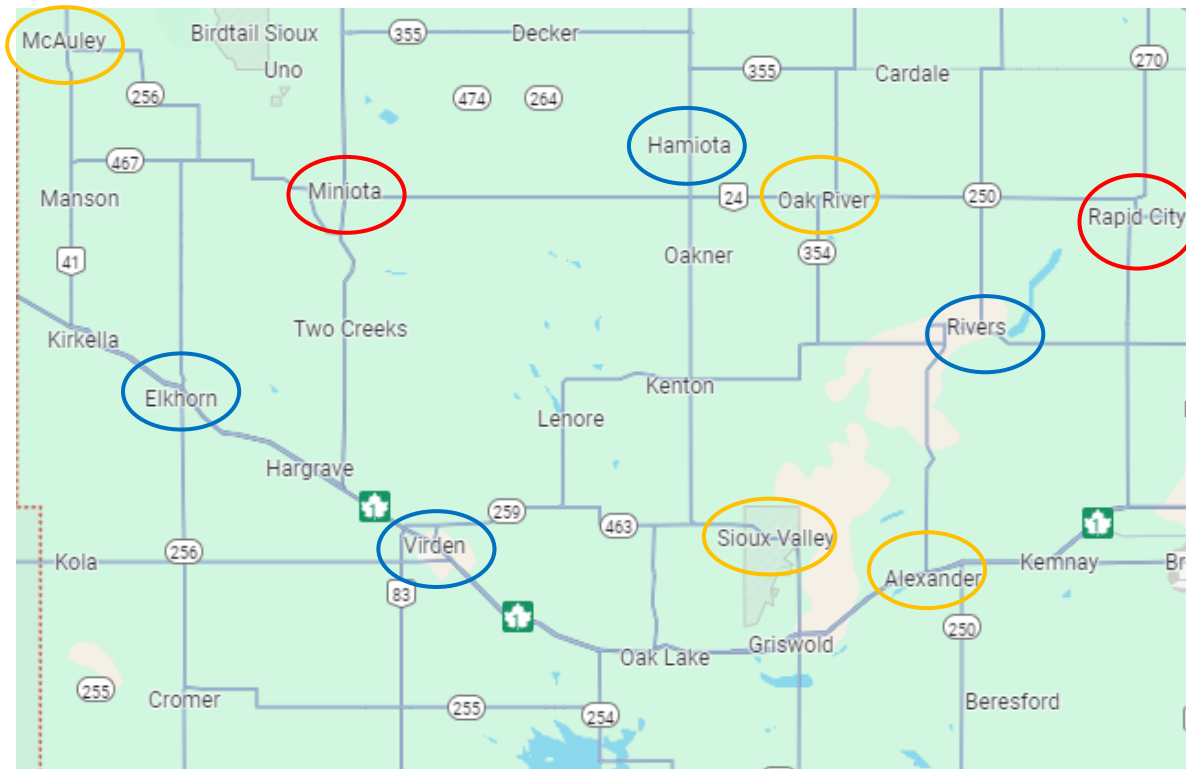




Our Discussion

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

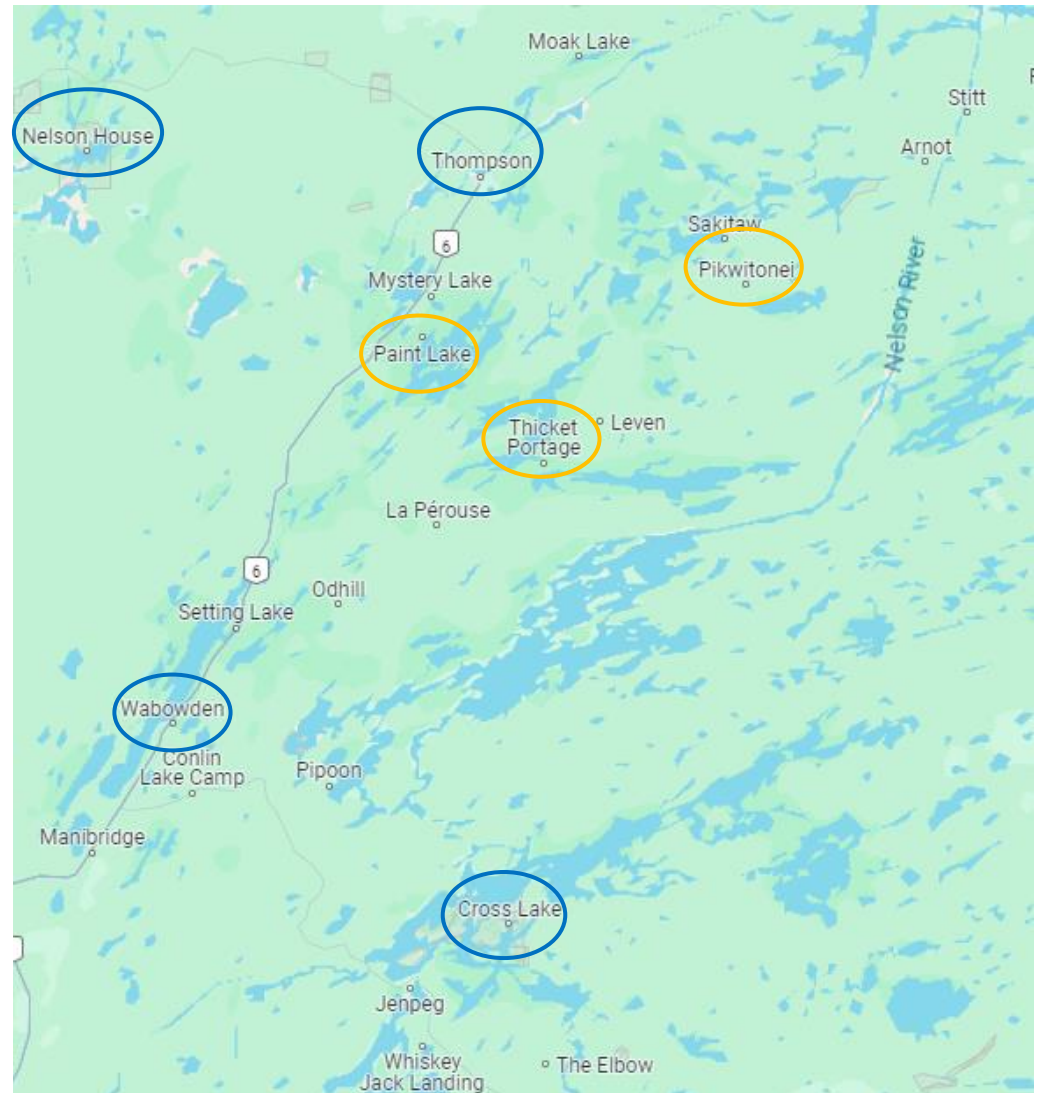
Medical First Response in Western Manitoba



- 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

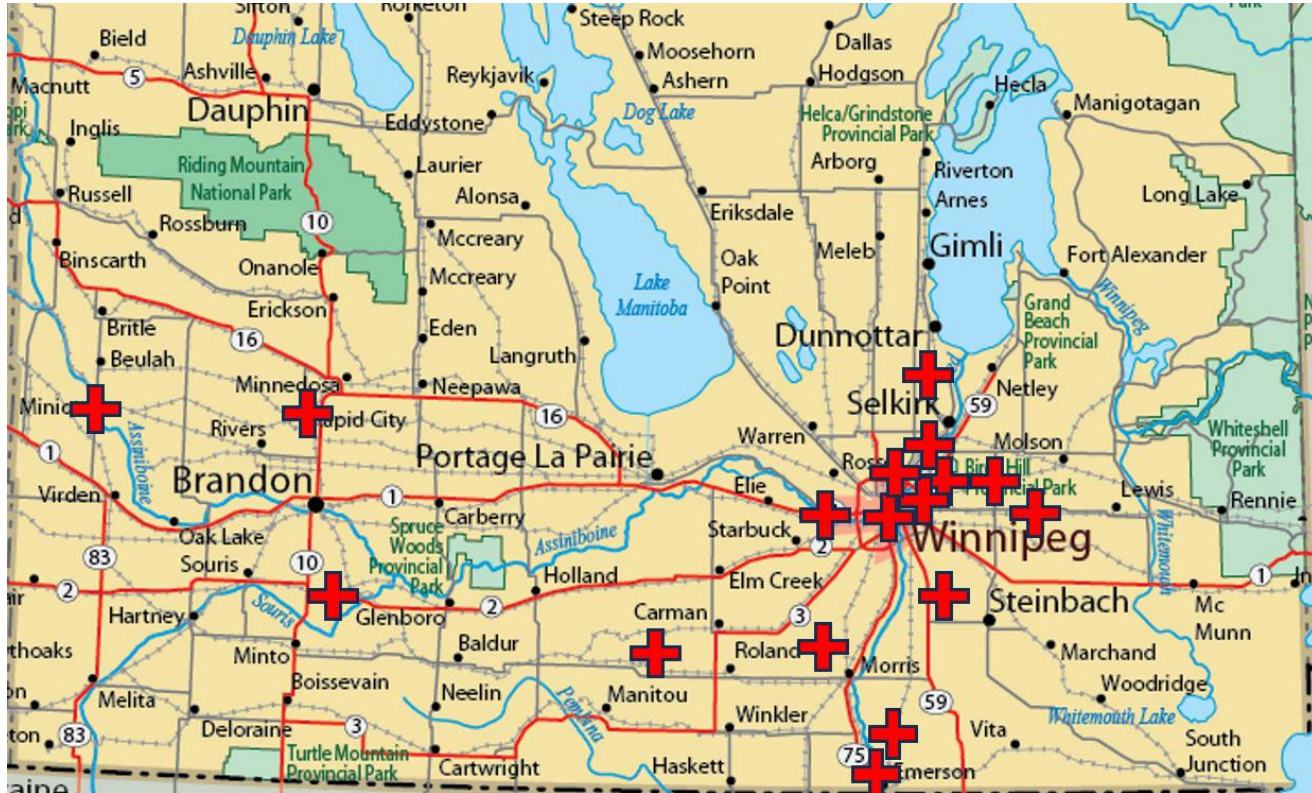
No medical first response

- 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>