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McFADYEN 2011

September 5th, 2011

Paramedic Association of Manitoba
2nd Floor -1111 Portage Ave
Winnipeg MB R3G 0S0

Attention: Jodi Possia, Chair

Dear Jodi Possia:

Jodi

Re: Paramedic Association of Manitoba 2011 Election Questionnaire

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your 2011 election questionnaire. As you know the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba knows that paramedics play a crucial role at the front of the front lines of our health care system. Unfortunately, that role has not been fully appreciated over the last decade. We look forward to fulfilling paramedicine's potential in improving health care delivery for Manitobans.

Our government would work with paramedics to increase access to continuing education for primary care paramedics. We will offer Advanced Care Paramedic education at a post secondary institution. We feel it is important to expand access to advanced care paramedics beyond Winnipeg to the rest of the province.

The PC Party agrees that Manitoba needs and would benefit from a more standardized and consistent EMS system in Manitoba, and we would work with the health regions to improve coordination and bridge the disparity that currently exists across different areas of the province.

Paramedics are currently restricted in their scope of care by outdated professional regulatory legislation. We would support paramedics in their desire to become a self regulating, self licensing profession, overseen by a professional organization. We will work with the paramedic community to bring their profession under the Regulated Health Professions Act. This will establish a professional oversight body, such as a Manitoba College of Paramedics and better define the scope of practice, standard of care, and associated training requirements.

The overall goal is to expand the range of decision-making and care provision for paramedics so that they can provide better and more timely emergency and urgent care

in the community before patients are transferred to emergency, urgent or community care centres.

We recognize that not every patient who calls 911 to receive paramedic care needs to go to an emergency room - they may be able to access faster care for minor injuries at a community clinic, for example. Our government will expand community paramedicine by providing paramedics with the ability to refer patients to locations other than hospital emergency rooms.

As a related initiative, we plan to establish a network of Community Care Centres capable of providing extended hours of care for those who do not need to wait in hospital emergency rooms. Along with other improvements we can make to EMS procedures, this will help reduce current offload times.

We will add five more ambulances to the fleet in Winnipeg, and add powerlift stretchers to every ambulance in Manitoba. Based on our discussions with your members, we know that these stretchers will allow paramedics to avoid workplace injuries and transport patients more safely and efficiently to care.

We appreciate your input and look forward to working with you to achieve better patient care for Manitobans as we enhance the role of paramedics in our health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh McFadyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Hugh McFadyen
Leader, PC Party of Manitoba