

# Population & Public Health

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

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## Promoting Healthy Public Policy

### Public Transit

Public transit influences health equity and population health. Fare increases and reduced routes were proposed in the 2018 City of Winnipeg budget. In response, PPH developed a background document on [Public Transportation & Health](#) and presented to the Executive Policy Committee of City Council. Many community organizations and individuals advocated against transit cuts and fare increases.



Outcome: No transit routes were cut. City of Winnipeg directed Winnipeg Transit to include a low-income bus fare into their strategic plan. PPH will continue to engage with the City to inform the strategy development.

See the [CTV coverage](#) on this topic.

### Legalization of Cannabis

It will be legal for adults to sell, purchase and use recreational cannabis in Canada in July 2018. The City of Winnipeg has jurisdictional responsibilities related to the retail of cannabis (e.g., where it can be sold), public consumption by-laws, and enforcement of laws. PPH is working with the City to provide public health input into by-law and strategy development. A background document to guide policy decisions is available on the [extranet](#).



## Reminders

### PPH Winter Reading: *Acknowledging Truths*

Our Winter PPH reading is the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

Find the PPH Staff Development page and reading discussion guide on the [extranet](#).



### Did you know?

PPH Background documents and a quick link to WRHA position statements are now available on the [extranet](#).

Check there for documents about:

[Public Transportation & Health](#)

[Income, Income Inequality & Health](#)

[Manitoba Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

[Legalization of Recreational Cannabis](#)

## Manitoba Poverty Reduction Plan

Social and economic disadvantage is at the root of large and preventable health inequities in the Winnipeg Health Region. The Province of Manitoba is developing a poverty reduction plan, mandated by legislation. They put out an [open call for submissions](#) to provide input into the development of the plan.

A small PPH task team used the WRHA [framework for understanding and addressing health equity](#) to guide a document, submitted to the province in January 2018. The [submission](#) outlines the health evidence of 10 key areas, provides considerations for action, and suggests indicators on tracking progress. PPH hopes to have ongoing input into the development of the provincial poverty reduction plan.

Thanks to all PPH staff who played a role in moving this work forward!

## Leadership Change

In June 2017 it was announced that Dr. Catherine Cook would depart the WRHA and begin a new position with Shared Health. A warm thank you to Catherine for all her PPH leadership!

In July 2017, Gina Trinidad became Chief Operating Officer for WRHA Community Health Services. The Population and Public Health Program, being part of Community Health Services, falls within her portfolio. Gina's portfolio also includes Community Areas, Winnipeg Integrated Services, Home Care, Long Term Care, Palliative Care, and Mental Health. Welcome Gina!



Gina Trinidad, BA, RN, BN, MN  
Chief Health Operations Officer  
WRHA Continuing Care and Community

## Encouraging people to file their income taxes contributes to improved health

**BETTER  
INCOME  
LEADS TO  
BETTER  
HEALTH**

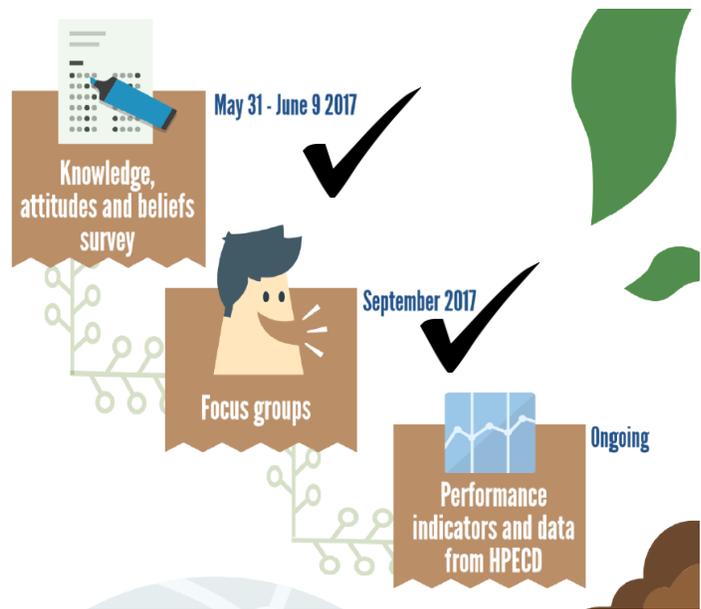
Filing a tax return every year allows individuals and families to unlock access to federal and provincial benefits including: Canada Child Benefit, Canada Child Disability Benefit, Working Income Tax Benefit, Manitoba Pharmacare Deductible, and more (for details see the [Get your Benefits Booklet](#)).

In 2016, over \$23 million dollars was brought back to those living on a low income and eligible for the free income tax clinics in Winnipeg. Free clinics are available across the province to a support income tax filing. For more information visit [www.getyourbenefits.ca](http://www.getyourbenefits.ca)

**National Immunization Week!** Canada's Immunization Awareness Week will take place April 21-28, 2018. [Click here](#) to learn about the history and origins of this week. Find out more at <https://immunize.ca/>.

## PHN Professional Practice Model Implementation Evaluation Update

The PPM Implementation Evaluation team is meeting regularly and making progress. Work is underway to synthesize the key findings from the PHN survey, focus groups, and key performance indicators from the HPECD database. The evaluation team will be presenting and discussing key findings with community area teams in the spring. Answers to questions from the June 2017 survey have been [shared with teams and posted online](#). The four months of community level intervention tracking data submitted by PHNs is also in the process of being reviewed and analyzed. Thank you for your contributions to this important work and your patience as we analyze the data and synthesize the results.



A section about PPM Implementation Evaluation has been added to the [PPH Quality Improvement page](#).

## New Designated Indigenous PHN Position

The Point Douglas Public Health team will soon be hiring a designated Indigenous Public Health Nurse position. This position will be a member of the Point Douglas team, and will be hired using the standard PHN hiring tools. Two things are unique about the position. First, the ‘designation’ will encourage more Indigenous applicants to apply. Second, the hiring process entails *additional* steps that look at applicants’ relationships to and experiences within Indigenous communities.

This initiative is a collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including the Downtown/Point Douglas Community Area, Population and Public Health Program, and WRHA Indigenous Health. It concretely responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 2015 [Calls to Action, #23](#), calling on all levels of government to “increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field”, and echoes a [Memoranda of Understanding](#) (2014) between WRHA and the Manitoba Nursing Union, which acknowledges “that Aboriginal persons are significantly underrepresented in the health care labour force and that additional actions are needed to promote and facilitate employment of Aboriginal persons in health care occupations...”.

This process values the community connections and networks that Indigenous applicants come with into the public health workforce, in the same way that all staff come with unique pre-existing relationships and experiences. By broadening our diversity, we strengthen our teams while also concretely demonstrating our commitment to reconciliation.

**Save the date!** The PPH Staff Development Committee is planning the 2018 PPH Staff Development ½ day sessions.

**When:** June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 8:30-12noon (PPH team members attend one of two morning sessions)

**Where:** Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, 340 Provencher Blvd.

**What:** Working Towards Reconciliation

- Reflect on how colonialism and racism have impacted the health system, including Population and Public Health practice in Winnipeg
- Explore how the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action can be addressed by WRHA PPH

This year's event will include breakout session for various team members. The Public Health Nurse session will focus on supporting Community Level Work.

## PPH in the news ...

### Local campaign to normalize breastfeeding

The Winnipeg Breastfeeding Network and Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba launched a campaign to normalize breastfeeding in public by placing life-sized photographs of Winnipeg women breastfeeding in malls, waiting rooms, and other locations. Six local women participated in the campaign, and students from the Winnipeg Technical Vocational school took the photos, designed, and created the 6-foot posters. For more information [see this new story](#). Congratulations to all those from PPH involved!

### City's beautiful trees also enhance our health and well-being

Dr. Lisa Richards, medical officer of health, wrote an article published in the Winnipeg Free Press about our urban forest. You can read the story, originally published August 18, 2017, [here](#).

### Winnipeg's Food Desert

A study analyzing food deserts in the Winnipeg Health Region was published in *Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Canada*. The study concludes that there are food deserts across the WRHA, affecting potentially more than 100,000 low income residents. The lead authors were Dr. Joyce Slater from the University of Manitoba and Dr. Chris Green, WRHA PPH Surveillance. A significant amount of the leg-work in validating the location and type of food-stores in Winnipeg for the study was undertaken by WRHA Community Dietitians and Facilitators. You can find the study [here](#).

