

January 20, 2003

Premier Gary Doer
Room 204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Doer,

In preparation for the forthcoming federal/provincial/territorial discussions on health care the National Chair of the MS Society of Canada has written to federal Minister of Health Anne McLellan noting the particular needs and concerns of Canadians with multiple sclerosis. I am pleased to enclose a copy of his letter for your information.

While we endorse the particular issues raised in the letter, we also recognize that availability of services varies across the country. As the letter points out, one of the services that is of particular importance to people with chronic, long-term conditions, like MS, is home care. In this context, we would like congratulate your government for continuing to ensure that Manitobans living with MS have access to one of the most comprehensive home care programs in the country.

At the same time, we note Mr. Romanow's recommendation that any additional federal funding designated for post-acute and palliative home care could allow the provinces and territories to further expand their support for home care for people with chronic conditions. We hope that this would provide the opportunity for the Manitoba program to be further strengthened. It could also be used to ensure provision of comprehensive support services for the community-based housing model we are currently working on, with other organizations and representatives of your government, for young adults with high care needs who are currently living or at risk of placement in a personal care home.

We hope that your discussions with your provincial/territorial and federal colleagues will be fruitful and that you will keep in mind the needs of people with MS and other chronic conditions and disabilities. If the MS Society of Canada, Manitoba Division can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to call upon us. You may contact Norm Velnes, Executive Director at 988-0916 or norm.velnes@mssociety.ca , or Sharon Segal, Social Action Coordinator at 988-0904 or sharon.segal@mssociety.ca

Yours sincerely,

Dave Horne,
Chair, Manitoba Division Board of Directors
MS Society of Canada, Manitoba Division

cc. Norm Velnes, Executive Director, MS Society of Canada, Manitoba Division
Sharon Segal, Social Action Coordinator, MS Society of Canada, Manitoba Division