

OCT 22 2020

John Carpay, B.A., LL.B.  
President  
Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms  
Email: [jgraf@jccf.ca](mailto:jgraf@jccf.ca)

Dear John Carpay:

Your email regarding Manitoba's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been referred to me for response on behalf of Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen.

All Canadian provinces were required to slow their surgery programs during this global pandemic. In March 2020, a number of non-urgent surgical and diagnostic procedures were postponed as part of the provincial effort to ensure health system capacity to respond to COVID-19.

The Manitoba government places a high priority on getting the system back on track with innovative solutions to accelerate procedures for Manitobans. As COVID-19 case numbers fell in late April in Manitoba, elective surgeries resumed and surgical volumes had reached 90 per cent of normal levels by early June. Over the summer, both public and private providers responded to the request for service agreements to expand capacity with innovative and creative responses. By March 2021, approximately 4,000 surgical procedures and 4,000 imaging exams will have been rescheduled. Additional contracts may be awarded as progress is monitored.

The government will continue to assess the public health risk, based on the best available evidence, as the situation evolves. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Dan Skwarchuk, CPA, CGA  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
and Chief Financial Officer

c The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier  
Honourable Cameron Friesen