



President's Letter

Doctors Manitoba
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August 6, 2021

Dear Colleague,

Over the last two years, we've heard from members that they want more from Doctors Manitoba, especially as our profession faces new challenges in the months and years ahead.

We've developed a new mandate for Doctors Manitoba that responds to what members told us: to support the whole physician, and to ensure you have what you need to focus on delivering exceptional care to Manitobans. To support this new mission, and to respond to what members have asked us to do, the Board has approved an increase to your annual membership fee.

Effective this September, member fees for practicing physicians will increase to \$1,645. This will still be the third lowest annual membership fee for medical associations in the country. Your annual member fees have only increased once in the last fourteen years.

The increase in your fees will be used to address the priorities identified by members in our annual member survey. Over 80% of members agreed that Doctors Manitoba should invest more to:

- ✓ **Expand physician health and wellness support.** This survey also told us that 45% of physicians are showing signs of burnout, 34% are showing signs of depression and 7% have thought about suicide in the last year. We also identified serious concerns about how the health system creates barriers to wellness. 89% of members want more resources in this area so we can support more physicians and address system barriers.
- ✓ **Offer more help on the “business side” of medicine.** Few physicians also get an MBA, but many are set up as medical corporations and some become employers and business owners. 88% of members want to see Doctors Manitoba offer more support and guidance in this area.
- ✓ **Increase support for audits.** While we were successful in stopping government legislation that would have stripped physicians of their right to appeal audits into their billing, the government is moving ahead with expanding audits. They plan to double their audit staff. 86% of members want Doctors Manitoba to expand our capacity to support physicians through the audit process.
- ✓ **Raise public awareness about important issues.** The pandemic has demonstrated the value of public advertising to promote awareness on key issues, such as seeing your doctor and promoting the vaccine. 80% of members want to see this continue.

Action in all of these priority areas will occur over the next two years, along with improvements in other areas member have identified, such as more online tools and resources. To support the full plan, the Board has also approved a \$200 increase to fees effective September 2022. Even after this increase, Doctors Manitoba's fees will be the lowest among the Ontario-Prairie medical associations, and well below the national member fee average of \$1,932.

The Board of Directors unanimously supported this plan to adjust standard member fees, after a comprehensive review of our operations and financial performance, as well as member feedback and a review of other provincial medical associations.

This change to your fees will help ensure Doctors Manitoba is well-positioned to support you into the future. Physicians face a lot of uncertainty going forward, including a pandemic recovery period, more frequent government audits, a return to the health system transformation agenda, and Master Agreement negotiations that very likely will occur during another period of extreme fiscal restraint.

We continue to fight for physician benefit programs, some of which are being cut or eliminated elsewhere in Canada. Your fees help us to do this. In fact, even after the fee increase, the benefit rebates and payments most members receive through Doctors Manitoba are still much higher than your fees. The majority of members receive over \$4,000 in benefits per year, on average, including CME and CMPA rebates, physician retention payments, and the special pandemic education rebates.

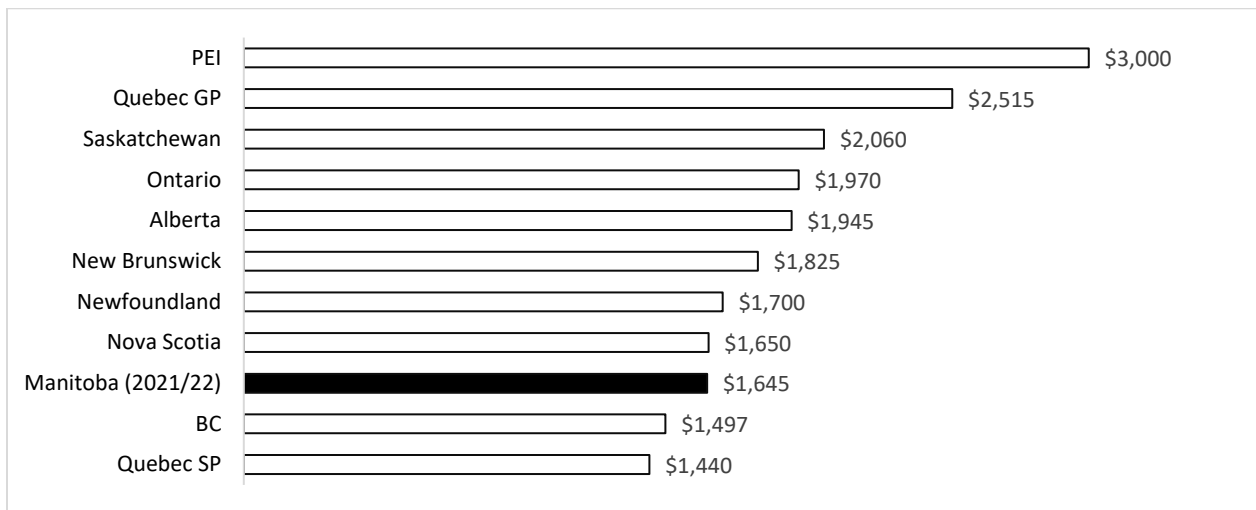
We would be happy to discuss this change with you and answer any questions you may have. You can contact us at general@doctorsmanitoba.ca anytime. You will receive your annual member invoice later this month August.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristjan Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kristjan Thompson
President

Annual Member Fees by Provincial Medical Association, 2021



* Based on survey of provincial medical associations in 2021, with Manitoba's new fee effective September 1, 2021

REMINDER – SPECIAL PANDEMIC AND VACCINE EDUCATION REBATE

The Board of Directors approved a second \$2,000 special rebate for pandemic and vaccine education to recognize the unparalleled level of learning you've had to do to keep up with COVID-19. If you have not yet claimed your rebate, please apply today! The deadline is October 31, 2021. Contact Barry at bhallman@doctorsmanitoba.ca for application details.