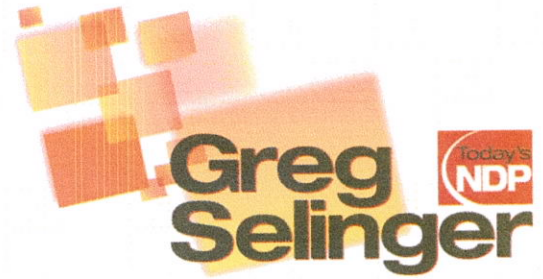


April 8, 2016



Dear members of the Manitoba Senior's Coalition Committee,

Thank you for your letter asking about the NDP's commitment to a Minister and Cabinet Committee for Seniors.

The Manitoba NDP is committed to supporting seniors and to ensuring their voices are heard and interests are represented in government decision making. Through our four terms of office we have ensured there has been a Minister responsible for Seniors, and a re-elected NDP government would continue this practice.

We have also maintained the Manitoba Council on Aging, an advisory body to the Minister of Healthy Living and Seniors. In 2005, we passed the Manitoba Council on Aging Act to provide a legislative foundation to the work of the Council, and to protect the important work undertaken by the Council. The Council is supported through the Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat.

These structures have been important in informing government decision-making but with a growing senior population we need to do more to ensure seniors are consulted, represented, and receive services they need.

A re-elected NDP government will also create a Seniors Advocate, an arms-length legislative officer charged with monitoring seniors' services, promoting awareness, and making recommendations to government on how to improve services for seniors in the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bellamy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Keith Bellamy
NDP Provincial Secretary