MEDICAL MANPOWER
COMMITTEE FORMED

9-Member Group to Study Requirements

A special nine-member committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. W.J. Condo, has been appointed to examine and recommend on a number of issues relating to medical manpower in Manitoba.

Health and Social Development Minister Laurent L. Desjardins and Continuing Education and Manpower Minister Ben Hanuschak said the formation of the committee arises out of a recommendation in the 1975 Clarkson-Vayda report on the Health Sciences Centre. The report said that the per-year capacity of the University of Manitoba medical school should be reduced to 75 from 100, starting in 1976-77. It also suggested that special emphasis should be placed on the development of residence training programs aimed at encouraging graduating medical students to stay on in the province.

However, a committee set up to advise the government on the report's recommendations said that reducing the size of the medical school would not in itself resolve varied and complex medical manpower issues in Manitoba. It recommended that before any decisions were made with respect to the size of the medical school, medical manpower issues should be thoroughly studied.

"A study of this nature should give us a detailed review of medical manpower, as seen by persons acquainted with the field both in and out of government," the ministers said.

The committee has been asked to report and recommend on:

. The number of physicians required in Manitoba by 1986, their distribution according to specialty and the ideal distribution of general practitioners and specialists in rural and urban areas, as well as the setting up of a residency program in gerontology.

. The number of new physicians that will be required every year, the size of the graduating class in the Faculty of Medicine, the type and number of residency positions required for graduate doctors and the extent to which the physician population should be maintained and/or increased by immigration, compared with training physicians in the Faculty of Medicine. Projected requirements of physicians and probable physician attrition rates should be kept in mind in developing these recommendations.
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Where medical students, interns and physician residents should be trained (community hospital, teaching hospital, community health centre, rural practice, etc.).

The resources and staff that will be required to train and educate physicians.

Current or proposed nurse-practitioner programs, in order to determine their potential impact on future medical manpower.

The factors that are important in influencing a doctor's decision as to where to locate his/her practice; also incentives to create the best possible geographic distribution of doctors, maintain a high rate of retention of Manitoba-trained physicians and ensure a rational distribution of various specialties and subspecialties.

The extent to which Manitoba should accept foreign medical graduates in residency positions, and also develop criteria for such acceptance.

Any revisions in the University of Manitoba Act that might be required because of the committee's recommendations.

The committee has also been asked to consider a policy concerning retention of Manitoba-trained physicians for a minimum number of years following completion of internship or residency.

The ministers noted that they had invited the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the Manitoba Medical Association, the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Universities Grants Commission to nominate representatives to sit on the committee. Staff representation was also requested from various government departments.

The members of the committee are as follows:

Chairman, Dr. W.J. Condo, chairman of the Universities Grants Commission.

Dr. Marvin Blauer, assistant deputy minister in the Department of Continuing Education and Manpower.

T.A.J. Cunnings, acting director of facilities in the Manitoba Health Services Commission (MHSC).

T.R. Edwards, chairman and executive director of MHSC.

Dr. P.K. Lindsay, a Gimli physician.

Dr. Allan Lysack, a Dauphin physician.

Dr. Arnold Naimark, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. R.H. Tavener, chief medical consultant to the Minister of Health and Social Development.

Dr. J.C. Wilt, director of provincial laboratory and x-ray services.