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**GENDER EQUITY MANITOBA SECRETARIAT EXPANSION**

- The new name for the expanded secretariat is Gender Equity Manitoba (GEM). Along with this shift, the Manitoba Women’s Advisory Council is changed to the Gender Equity Council, and the Family Violence Prevention Program is changed to the Gender-Based Violence Program.
- The expansion of the GEM Secretariat will include the creation of two new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions that will provide needed expertise on issues facing 2SLGBTQQA+ people and to allow for building of relationships between the Manitoba government and community organizations serving that population.
- The expanded mandate will allow GEM to serve as a regular point of contact with community groups serving Manitoba’s 2SLGBTQQA+ population. The new mandate will be in keeping with an emerging trend in other federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions (e.g., Canada, Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and Newfoundland and Labrador), which have changed their mandates from a women’s equity/equality focus to a broader gender equity/equality focus.
- The Manitoba government is also investing to improve access to care and reduce wait times for gender-affirming care for youth and adults. This includes nearly \$490,000 over two years to help decrease waitlists for individuals requiring gender-affirming care and support their access to surgical procedures at Klinik Community Health Centre. The funding will help to build the program’s care team and double clinic services from 2.5 to five days a week. Support for a partnership between Klinik and Shared Health’s Gender Diversity and Affirming Action for Youth (GDAAY) program will provide significant and more immediate care to individuals 15 years of age and older through Klinik’s adult trans health team.
- Additionally, new annual Manitoba government funding of more than \$700,000 will help to expand overall access to the GDAAY program. GDAAY provides integrated health-care services and support for youth seeking gender-affirming care. Care teams include pediatric experts with experience in developmental pediatrics, adolescent medicine, pediatric endocrinology, and child and adolescent mental health.