

You may write to provincial government about this resolution as a private citizen; you may state you are a CWL member, but you cannot state you are writing on behalf of a CWL council, nor can you write to government using League letterhead.”

Education and Health

Winnipeg/Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Resolution 2016.01 Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages

Whereas, The Manitoba provincial government does not cover the cost of providing insulin pumps and supplies (related components) to Manitobans of all ages with type 1 diabetes except for those under the age of 18; and

Whereas, An insulin pump can significantly increase the medical benefits to the individual by providing better control of blood glucose levels and reducing secondary diabetes complications; and

Whereas, The cost to procure an insulin pump with supplies may not be affordable by all Manitobans; therefore be it

Resolved, That Manitoba Provincial Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, urge the Manitoba provincial government to extend the coverage of insulin pumps and supplies for Manitobans of all ages with type 1 diabetes, and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the other ten provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

BRIEF Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages

The Manitoba provincial government covers the cost of providing insulin pumps and supplies for eligible Manitobans with type 1 diabetes who are under 18 years of age through the Manitoba Pediatric Insulin Pump Program.

“An insulin pump is a medical device used by people with diabetes. It’s an alternative to multiple daily injections of insulin using a syringe or pen.” (Health Canada) “The insulin pump can improve management of blood sugars and lifestyle for some children, and reduce the potential for future complications,” (Government of Manitoba) Insulin pump supplies consist of an insulin reservoir, infusion set, battery and insulin. (insulinpumps.ca)

“Diabetes is a chronic, often debilitating and sometimes fatal disease in which the body either cannot produce insulin or cannot properly use the insulin it produces. This leads to high levels of glucose in the blood, which can damage organs, blood vessels and nerves.” (Canadian Diabetes Assoc)

“Significant evidence already exists demonstrating the medical benefits of insulin pumps versus multiple daily injections of insulin. These benefits also lead to real cost savings for the government, through a noted reduction in costly diabetes complications including heart attack, stroke, blindness, limb amputation and kidney failure.” (ibid)

The province of Manitoba states “an average cost of \$6000 to \$7000” for an insulin pump and the annual supply costs for the pumps are “estimated at \$2000 to \$4000 per person.” (Province of Manitoba) An insulin pump has an estimated life span of approximately 4 years. “Manitoba covers the cost of the pumps for kids 17 and under, but once diabetics turn 18, they are expected to foot the bill themselves.” (Dow)

In Manitoba those over 18 would access the Pharmacare plan for coverage for supplies once the Adjusted Total Family Income is calculated in determining the Pharmacare deductible. (Pharmacare) Other costs would be factored into the person’s annual income tax calculation. (Canada Revenue Agency)

Provincial health programs across Canada provide financial assistance to people for their insulin pumps and pump supplies. The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) in Ontario helps to pay for insulin pumps and provides a grant to help pay for insulin pump related supplies for any permanent resident. (Government of Ontario) The Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT) Program provides funding for the cost of insulin pumps and pump supplies for all Alberta residents with type 1 diabetes. (Government of Alberta)

In launching its pediatric diabetes insulin pump and supplies program in 2012, the Manitoba government stated, “The program will also lessen the financial burden for Manitoba families who are dealing with diabetes,” (Government of Manitoba) “Every day, Manitobans living with type 1 diabetes take insulin so that they can live healthy lives.” (Canadian Diabetes Assoc)

In Manitoba “...the estimated number of people living with type 1 diabetes is 5,900 people in 2012 and is projected to rise to 9,500 by 2032.” (ibid)

Therefore, extending the coverage of insulin pumps and insulin pump supplies to all ages in Manitoba would benefit the individual by providing better management of their condition and financial assistance throughout their life. It would also benefit the government by reducing health care costs incurred dealing with secondary complications and it would “improve the sustainability of the province’s health-care system.” (Government of Manitoba) The government of Manitoba is urged to extend the coverage of insulin pumps and insulin pump supplies to Manitobans of all ages with type 1 diabetes.

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ACTION PLAN Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages

1. Write letters to the premier and minister of health with copies to your local member of parliament urging the Manitoba government to expand the coverage of insulin pumps and supplies (related components) for Manitobans of all ages with type 1 diabetes.
2. Hold a speaker presentation on type 1 diabetes and benefits of using an insulin pump and what supplies are required for replacement.
3. Monitor the provincial government's response to the request contained in the resolution.