



March 21, 2024

The Honourable Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care

RE: Cuts to CADTH information services

Dear Minister Asagwara,

We, the members of the **Manitoba Association of Health Information Providers (MAHIP)**, are writing to you because we are seriously concerned with the erosion of services at the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH). CADTH, soon to be known as the Canadian Drug Agency, is an independent organization funded by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, responsible for providing health care decision-makers with objective evidence for making informed, evidence-based decisions. As a former psychiatric nurse, we are confident you understand the value and importance of evidence for the provision of quality health services.

In February 2024, CADTH terminated the employment of six librarians and two library technicians, reducing the staff of its Research Information Services division by half. This decision was made following several other recent changes that have resulted in the deterioration of information services at CADTH. As health information professionals and Manitobans, we are concerned by these cuts to services that are meant to provide reliable, unbiased information to health professionals, health policy makers, and the public. The evidence products that CADTH offers are a critical component of its taxpayer funded mandate and essential for the provision of high-quality health care.

Highly skilled librarians and library technicians are responsible for identifying and retrieving the information that underpins all CADTH's work. These cuts will ultimately negatively impact the strained health system and the health and well-being of Manitobans. With the ongoing proliferation of misinformation, we need information professionals now more than ever to ensure that our health system is making decisions based on credible and trustworthy evidence.

As the Government of Manitoba is a financial supporter of CADTH, we implore you to investigate the ongoing changes at CADTH, and their impact on the evidence-based decision making process that is required in healthcare. We ask that you put a stop to any further reductions in services that risk harming the health of Manitobans and urge you to advocate for a reinstatement of staff in the Research Information Services division.

Sincerely,

Tyler Ostapyk
President, Manitoba Association of Health Information Providers (MAHIP)
on behalf of the Manitoba Association of Health Information Providers (MAHIP)

Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library
University of Manitoba
727 McDermot Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P5
contact.mahip@gmail.com
<https://mahip.chla-absc.ca>