



April 8, 2026

Obby Khan  
Room 172 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3C 0V8

RE: Response to April 1, 2026 Letter

Dear Mr. Khan,

Thank you for your letter of April 1, 2026, and for acknowledging your recent comments regarding social workers. We appreciate your recognition that social workers are highly trained professionals who perform critically important work, as well as your expression of regret for your inaccurate public statements.

We must also share our disappointment that your understanding of the role of social workers as mental health professionals appears to have been informed only after reference to the Canadian Mental Health Association, rather than through engagement with or consideration of the voices and expertise within the social work profession itself. Social workers in Manitoba have long been recognized as integral members of the mental health system, and it should not require external validation to be recognized.

Given that your original comments were made publicly in the Legislative Assembly, it is our expectation that a clear and direct correction will also be made in the House. Public statements that mischaracterize a regulated profession have real consequences, and it is important that the public record be accurately corrected in the same forum in which the comments were made.

We do welcome your willingness to meet with the Manitoba College of Social Workers. We would value the opportunity to engage in a constructive discussion about the role of social workers, their scope of practice, and their essential contributions to mental health care across the province. Our office will follow up to coordinate a mutually convenient time.

Thank you again for your response. We look forward to continued dialogue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Temmerman".

Barbara Temmerman, MSW, RSW  
Executive Director/Registrar

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Meixner".

Jennifer Meixner, MA, BSW, RSW  
President