

Highlights: MS Advisory Panel Recommendations

The Multiple Sclerosis Advisory Panel of Saskatchewan was appointed by Health Minister Dustin Duncan in July 2014 to recommend options for improving access to care and support for patients and caregivers, enhancing MS research capacity and education, and enabling people with MS to participate in MS clinical trials.

The 11-member panel included MS patients and family members, researchers and health care providers with expertise in MS, and representatives from the MS Society and the Saskatchewan Office of Disability Issues. The panel has completed its duties with the submission of its nine recommendations. See the full recommendations on saskatchewan.ca.

Summary of Recommendations

THEME 1: Care

Specific recommendations to improve the care and support experience for people living with MS, their families, and their caregivers.

- 1.1** Develop a provincial strategy to educate, recruit and retain MS specialist neurologists and an MS multidisciplinary health care team.
- 1.2** Develop roadmaps of access to care for all persons with MS (including persons in remote and rural communities and at different stages of the disease).
- 1.3** Create a Saskatchewan-specific MS provincial registry compatible with the existing Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Monitoring System (CMSMS).
- 1.4** Create an ongoing degenerative neurological diseases advisory council.

THEME 2: Research and Education

Specific recommendations for MS research capacity and education.

- 2.1** Support the work of an MS Clinical Research Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 2.2** Support research funding through the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) for MS-related projects.
- 2.3** Enhance MS educational opportunities for students, researchers, and health care professionals.

THEME 3: Clinical trials

Specific recommendations for opportunities for Saskatchewan people living with MS to participate in credible clinical trials.

- 3.1** Provide enhanced administrative and clerical support for the Saskatchewan MS registry for the purpose of facilitating research and clinical trials.
- 3.2** Develop sustainable infrastructure support for a unit dedicated to clinical trials, including training and resource allocation.