



Statement on proposed 2026/2027 Provincial budget cuts

March 3, 2026

Earlier last week, the provincial government proposed an austerity budget. This budget proposes cuts of \$130 million to community groups. These proposed cuts include funding streams that we have relied on, such as:

- Cuts to the Department of Seniors and Long Term Care.
- Office of Health Care Professionals Recruitment
- 20% reduction to the Caregiver Benefit.
- Elimination of several grants under the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

The Provincial government has stressed that these cuts are necessary to continue to invest in healthcare. However, as an interdisciplinary health team, we recognize the complex links between health and community, and we anticipate lasting effects from these cuts. We remain committed to rural health, and invite continued collaboration with the Province.

The service closures and potential job losses from these budget cuts would hurt all levels of our team. Community workers, primary health care providers, and volunteers will all be doing more with less.

Our communities are in an urgent state of need, and non-profit organizations are already acting as a first line of defence for vulnerable people. Whether from food insecurity, mental health and addictions, caregiving demands, or social inequality, many crises are coming to a head in our communities. Community workers will be put under increased strain as they do their best to help people through the hardest times in their lives.

Our volunteers will also feel the impact. Many of the grants slated to be eliminated supported the dedicated efforts of our volunteers. These grants, no matter how small, mean a lot to the people doing the quiet, and often thankless work that holds communities together. Amidst the proposed cuts, volunteers will face an uphill battle.

Our primary health team would feel these cuts acutely as well. When preventative services are not available, it negatively affects health outcomes. In simpler terms, more people will get sick or stay sick longer.

Any short term financial relief from these cuts will be outweighed by the long-term consequences of chronic disease and illnesses that manifest from lack of resources and services.

As practitioners of social prescribing, we know that people are better equipped to lead long and healthy lives when they are connected to their neighbourhoods, their environment, and their culture. We express our support to our colleagues working in Arts and Culture, who work tirelessly to make our towns and cities good and meaningful places to live.

Here at the DKMCHC, we do not yet know the full picture of how these cuts will affect us. But we want to **make it clear to the people that need us: No matter what happens, we remain committed to helping you live your healthiest life.** Throughout our 43-year history, we have weathered many challenges.

Our mandate remains unchanged: to promote health, dignity, and social connection for all members of our community. We will continue to steward our resources responsibly in the face of uncertainty.

We also acknowledge that our ability to fulfill this mission has always depended on the strength of our community. As we prepare for potential challenges, we respectfully invite continued engagement from those who are able to support our work.

Ways you can help:

- [Write to your MLA here.](#) Tell them how these cuts will affect you.
- Send us your stories: Knowing how our services impact your life helps us prove need. Write us an email, a letter, or even give us a call.
- Continue to donate and volunteer when you can.

Your partnership ensures that our most vulnerable neighbours continue to receive the care and support they deserve.

With gratitude,

Signed,

Managing Director Sherry Sampson, Community facing staff, and Board of Directors.
Dr Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre.