

Manitoba Tomorrow Project: Over halfway to goal of recruiting 10,000 research participants

By CCMB Communications & Public Affairs

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Winnipeg, MB: CancerCare Manitoba's long term health research project, funded by Health Canada through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), the Manitoba Tomorrow Project, is strengthening efforts to recruit Manitobans to sign up to participate.

The study, aimed at learning more about the causes of cancer and other diseases, follows the health of Manitobans over time. Findings from this research could lead to new and improved treatments, earlier detection using new disease biomarkers, and new prevention strategies.

"When we launched the study our goal was to recruit 10,000 Manitoba residents aged 30 to 74. Unfortunately, the pandemic interrupted our recruitment efforts, yet we were still able to sign up over 6,000 people in the last year – a remarkable number!" says lead researcher, Dr. Donna Turner. "What we need now is for another 4,000 people to join us. In under an hour, you can sign up and help us advance the knowledge of cancer," she adds.

Volunteering is simple. Participants are asked to fill out a 45-minute questionnaire and take part in an optional 45-minute study appointment. Then every few years they'll be contacted for follow-up appointments and questionnaires.

"This research is so important. Our goal is to create a resource for population health research, allowing for a big-picture look at all the factors that determine our health – genes, environment, lifestyle, behaviour, social factors – to better understand how they interact and contribute to the development of cancer and other diseases," says Turner. "We are so thankful for the individuals who have already joined our study and we hope more Manitobans will see this as an opportunity to do something proactive to help change the course of cancer," Turner adds.

Gigi Fallorin, an early Manitoba Tomorrow Project recruit, shares her reason for signing up. "My only sister in the Philippines was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer and underwent a series of chemotherapy sessions. Being a part of the MTP is meaningful and significant — it's my way of showing my concern for cancer care efforts and research," she says.

Visit [ManitobaTomorrowProject.ca](https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/Research/research-institute-at-cancercare-manitoba/research-programs/manitoba-tomorrow-project?utm_source=manitobatomorrowproject.ca&utm_medium=vanityURL&utm_campaign=Manitoba%20Tomorrow%20Project) (https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/Research/research-institute-at-cancercare-manitoba/research-programs/manitoba-tomorrow-project?utm_source=manitobatomorrowproject.ca&utm_medium=vanityURL&utm_campaign=Manitoba%20Tomorrow%20Project) to learn more and sign up.