

Dr. Steve Manske  
Propel Centre for Population Health Impact  
200 University Avenue West  
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1  
March 26, 2012

Dear Dr. Manske,

Thank you for your letter regarding CancerCare Manitoba's potential role in coordinating the 2012-13 *Youth in Schools Survey* data collection in Manitoba this fall.

As you know, we are part of a large province-wide consortium, Partners in Planning for Healthy Living (<http://partners.healthincommon.ca/>), which is currently working with Manitoba's schools, regional health authorities (RHAs) and government departments, to collect chronic disease risk factor information on a regular basis. Reports are provided to each school and to each RHA to provide locally-relevant profiles that can be used to direct prevention and healthy living programs. We also provide a province-wide roll-up of the findings. Our next survey is slated to roll out in the 2012-13 school year.

The schools are enthusiastic partners but have also expressed concerns around the need to control the number of surveys they undertake ("survey fatigue"). As a result, when we brought the opportunity to participate in the *Youth in Schools Survey* forward to our partners, we were advised to decline for this year. Therefore this letter is official notification to this effect: we will not be undertaking coordination of the *Youth in Schools Survey* this round.

However, we would like to explore the possibility that data from our efforts may be used as a proxy for Manitoba in the *Youth in Schools Survey* this year. I understand Dr. Jane Griffith has had discussions with you in this regard, reflecting our interest in working together and finding a suitable option, yet respecting our partners' (including schools) commitment to the local risk factor surveillance offered through the Manitoba Youth Health Survey.

We appreciate your understanding of our circumstances, and look forward to continuing our work with Propel in the future.

Sincerely,



Donna Turner, PhD  
Provincial Director of Population Oncology, CancerCare Manitoba;  
Chair, Partners in Planning for Healthy Living

cc Andrew Loughead (Manitoba Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs)  
Andrea Lamboo-Miln (Manitoba Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs)  
Rob Santos (Healthy Child Manitoba)  
Paul Paquin (Manitoba Education)