



Interfaith Health Care  
Association of Manitoba

Association confessionnelle  
de la santé du Manitoba

30  
YEARS

*Celebrating 30 Years of Compassion, Collaboration, and  
Faith in Healthcare*

**Annual Report**  
**2025**

# Our Vision

To be a recognized leader in advocating for and supporting faith-based health care and social service organizations so that people we serve will experience comfort, hope, peace, and community.

# Our Mission

IHCAM supports the goals of faith-based organizations in Manitoba to deliver effective community based health and social services through advocacy, education, self-governance, and the sharing of best practices with its members.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Caring of body, mind and spirit with love  
Promoting faith and cultural communities  
Serving others in the belief that life is sacred  
Responding to the needs of the marginalized  
Working in partnership with others

## **A Message from our Chair and CEO**

The past year has been one of profound growth and strategic progress for the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM). It was a year of strengthening our foundation, amplifying our collective voice, and deepening the connections that define our community.

The theme of this year was *maturation*. We took deliberate steps to secure IHCAM's long-term future through official incorporation milestones that ensures stability and permanence for our mission. Building on this foundation, we engaged in proactive advocacy, ensuring the unique value of faith-based care was clearly heard in both government and public arenas.

At the same time, we continued to deliver tangible value to our members through education, formation, and collaborative initiatives that strengthen our collective capacity.

As we look ahead, we do so with pride as we celebrated **IHCAM's 30th Anniversary--** a milestone event to celebrate our history and chart a bold course for the future.

We extend our deepest thanks to our members, partners, and dedicated Board of Directors. Your commitment and belief in whole-person care are the driving forces behind our success. It is our honour to serve this community alongside each of you.

**Sincerely,**  
**Abednigo Mandalupa, Board Chair**  
**Gladys Hrabí, Chief Executive Officer**

## **Strengthening Our Foundation: Governance, Membership, and Operations**

### Organizational Milestones

A key achievement this year was our official incorporation. Following a recommendation from The Fort Group.

Our 2024 Annual General Meeting, held in a hybrid format on November 13, was another cornerstone event. The meeting featured an insightful keynote address from Doug Longstaffe and culminated in the appointment of Abednigo Mandalupa as our new Board Chair and Angela Peeler as Treasurer, ensuring strong leadership continuity.

### Membership Dynamics and Engagement

IHCAM's strength lies in its diverse and committed membership. This year, we were proud to see our community evolve and grow through targeted outreach and engagement.

- **New Member:** We strategically expanded our community by welcoming the Salvation Army's Winnipeg Centre of Hope as a member, a move that prompted a review of our bylaws to ensure IHCAM can embrace a broader range of mission-aligned partners in the future.
- In August 2024, members from IHCAM and CHAM participated in the Global Leadership Network (GLN) Summit, a valuable professional development opportunity that fostered connection and provided exposure to global perspectives on leadership and innovation in faith-based service.
- This year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Helmut Plett**, who retired from the IHCAM Board after many years of dedicated service as the representative for the Pentecostal tradition and CEO of Calvary Place Personal Care Home. Helmut's steady leadership, thoughtful insight, and unwavering commitment to faith-based care have been invaluable to IHCAM's growth and direction.

## **Fostering Connection and Knowledge: Education and Community Engagement**

IHCAM's educational events and resource center activities are vital platforms for professional development, community building, and advancing the conversation on spiritual health. These initiatives provide direct, tangible value to our members and the broader public, equipping them with knowledge and fostering a network of shared purpose.

Throughout the year, IHCAM hosted several key events that brought together leaders, practitioners, and community members to learn and collaborate.

- *Nurturing Social Connectedness and Spirituality in Older Adults (October 2024):* This highly successful workshop, co-sponsored by the Manitoba Multifaith Council, attracted 70 participants. The event's focus on the crucial role of spiritual

health for seniors garnered significant media coverage, including interviews on CBC, amplifying its important message.

- *Board Governance Workshop (March 2025)*: In partnership with CHAM and MARCHE, we co-hosted a dynamic half-day session on board governance. The workshop was attended by 42 CEOs and board members, providing a valuable forum for strengthening leadership capacity across our sector.

### Spiritual Health Awareness Week (SHAW) 2024

Our 2024 Spiritual Health Awareness Week campaign, themed "Breaking the Myths," was a major success, significantly raising the profile of spiritual care in Manitoba. The campaign's impact was demonstrated through several key achievements:

1. **Official Recognition**: We received an official proclamation from the Minister of Health, lending significant credibility and government endorsement to the week's activities.
2. **Engaging Content**: A compelling week-long interview series featuring spiritual health practitioners was produced and shared widely, offering personal and professional insights into the field.
3. **Broad Media Reach**: The campaign secured extensive coverage across CTV, print media, and social media platforms, reaching a diverse public audience.
4. **Digital Innovation**: We successfully launched the Spiritual Health Manitoba YouTube Channel, creating a new and permanent platform for sharing valuable video content and engaging with the community online.

### Supporting Member Initiatives and Professional Development

IHCAM remains committed to directly supporting the work of our members. This year, due to budget constraints, the Spirituality Grant program approved two of the six applications received, awarding \$6,000 to Villa Youville and \$938 to Centre de Santé for their respective projects.

### Championing Our Mission: Advocacy and Government Relations

IHCAM's advocacy work is the strategic core of our mission. Protecting and promoting the future of faith-based healthcare requires proactive, collaborative, and persistent engagement with government, partner organizations, and policymakers. This year, we focused our efforts on key policy files and relationship-building to ensure our members' voices were heard.

#### Direct Engagement with Government

Building and maintaining relationships with government officials is essential to our advocacy. Key interactions this year included:

- *Government relations:* We presented to the MLAs on the immense value that faith-based services contribute to the provincial healthcare system. We also took the opportunity to express our gratitude for their support of legislation that strengthens community-based health initiatives.
- *Provincial Budget Breakfast:* IHCAM Board members attended the budget breakfast hosted by Minister of Finance Adrian Sala, using the opportunity to strengthen relationships with key provincial decision-makers.
- *Advocacy for Spiritual Health Care:* In a joint effort with CASC and the Manitoba Multifaith Council, we developed and submitted a formal letter requesting a meeting with the Minister of Health to discuss the integration and support of spiritual health care.

### Collaborative Advocacy Initiatives

Our advocacy is stronger when we work with partners. The Spiritual Health Committee, in collaboration with the Manitoba Multifaith Council, continues to meet regularly to advance shared goals. Furthermore, IHCAM remains an active participant in regular meetings with the Palliative Care Coalition in Manitoba, contributing our perspective to the collective effort to improve end-of-life care in the province.

### **Amplifying Our Voice: Communications and Public Outreach**

#### Expanding Our Digital Footprint

We have modernized our outreach by investing in key digital platforms to connect with a wider audience.

- **Social media:** We successfully launched IHCAM's official Instagram account, which is now regularly updated with news, event promotions, and community stories to drive engagement.
- **Video Content:** The launch of the Spiritual Health Manitoba YouTube Channel provides a dynamic platform for sharing interviews, educational content, and stories from our community.
- **Website:** The IHCAM website undergoes regular updates to serve as a central hub for information. We continue to encourage members to link their sites with ours for reciprocal promotion and enhanced visibility.
- The monthly IHCAM e-newsletter CONNECTIONS remains a cornerstone of our communications strategy. It serves as a reliable and direct channel to keep members and the broader community informed about our advocacy work, upcoming events, and important sector developments.
- A prominent article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on January 2, 2025, which focused on the critical role of spiritual health in long-term care settings.

## BOARD APPRECIATION

On behalf of our IHCAM membership, we want to express our sincere appreciation to the members of our IHCAM Board during the 2024-2025 fiscal year for sharing their time, energy and for their deep commitment to the mission of our Association.

Nicole Boonstra	Baptist	CEO Meadowood Manor
Angela Peeler	Catholic	CEO, Holy Family Home
Greg Reid	United	CEO, Fred Douglas Lodge
Keith Bytheway	Lutheran	CEO Luther Home
Karin Oliviera	Mennonite	CEO, Salem Home
Helmut Plett	Pentecostal	CEO Calvary Place
Abednigo Mandalupa	Seventh Day Adventist	CEO, Park Manor Home
Laurie Cerqueti	Jewish	CEO, Simkin Centre



## OUR MEMBERS

Actionmarguerite- Tache

Actionmarguerite- St. Joseph's

Actionmarguerite- St. Vital

Bethania Home

Calvary Place

Dr. Gendreau Personal Care Home

Fred Douglas Society

Holy Family Home

Lindenwood Retirement Living

Luther Home

Meadowood Manor

Misericordia Place

Misericordia Terraces

Park Manor

Rest Haven Care Home

Salem Home

Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre

Tabor Home

West Park Manor

Winnipeg Centre of Hope

Centre de Santé St. Boniface

Eden Health Care Services

Misericordia Health Centre

Sara Riel Inc.

St. Amant Inc.

St. Boniface General Hospital

Ste. Rose General Hospital

Winnipegosis & District Health Centre

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