



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
**INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY GRANTS TO
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2018**

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (December 13, 2017) Thanks to two grants from the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS), Manitoba community pharmacists will be working on enhancing a culture that can openly discuss and better deal with medication incidents and near misses, and youth in Langruth, Manitoba will be learning to be patient safety ambassadors in their home and community.

“This year’s two grant recipients show that patient safety improvements can be made in big, system-wide ways and in smaller ways at the community level,” said Laurie Thompson, Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety Executive Director. “However, both can create huge ripple effects, one through a network of pharmacy professionals, and the other as a possible shining example for other youth and schools to follow.”

The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (CPhM) will receive a \$6,200 grant to create a Just/Safe Toolkit for community pharmacies to help support a cultural shift from blame-and-shame to just-and-safe.

“Our goal is to improve safety by shifting away from a culture of blame and shame when it comes to medication incidents,” said College of Pharmacists of Manitoba President Jennifer Ludwig. “This grant will assist us in putting the Just/Safe Toolkit into the hands of community pharmacists throughout Manitoba, resulting in safer healthcare delivery.”

A September 2017 survey of 20 Manitoba community pharmacies by the College and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) revealed that fear of reporting and sharing of medication errors has been ingrained in many of these healthcare professionals. The pharmacy professionals also felt there were not enough safe places and resources for them to turn to that would help them on this often-difficult journey toward open and transparent dialog about medication incidents and near-misses with peers and patients.

MIPS funding will be used to create a Safety Attitudes Questionnaire for all Manitoba’s community pharmacies and to consult with stakeholders and, patient safety experts. These findings will focus and guide the creation and content of the Just/Safe Toolkit, which will be available online for pharmacists and the public. In partnership with ISMP Canada, the College will create and launch an innovative mobile app which will allow pharmacy professionals to share learnings and experiences directly with one another. They will also partner to share ISMP Canada’s continuous professional

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PREMIER MEMBERS

development resources on medication safety with the College's member pharmacists and adapt them for community outreach patient seminars.

"Our September survey certainly underlined the importance of focusing on systems, rather than people, so we can better support pharmacy professionals and patients discussing medication incidents and near-misses leading to quality improvement," said College Deputy Registrar, Jill Hardy. "Culture change is challenging and the Just/Safe Toolkit supports community pharmacy professionals shifting from a 'blame and shame' culture to a 'just and safe' culture, making an already safe system even safer."

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety also awarded \$1,300 of funding to Langruth Elementary School in Langruth, Manitoba to cover the costs of sending a community-based facilitator to Winnipeg to be trained to teach a babysitting course for up to 30 local youth aged eleven and up. The funds will cover the costs of purchasing training books for the youth. Students will also be trained to help seniors complete a falls prevention safety checklist.

"We are very excited to learn that Langruth Elementary has been selected to receive this grant from the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety, as it will allow for all students to have the opportunity to not only take the babysitters course, but also to work with seniors in their community in relation to home safety, both of which will help to decrease the risk of accidents and injury," said Teresa Wright, School Social Work Clinician. Thank you to Southern Health Santé Sud and the Langruth Community Builders group for partnering with Langruth School."

Dianna Meseyton-Neufeld, Healthy Living Facilitator for Southern Health-Santé Sud, and a member of the Langruth Community Builders group believes that the Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiatives Grant allows small rural communities opportunities to access funds to pursue community driven projects that they might not otherwise have.

"What I heard from this group was that students needed babysitting skills so that their families could be safer," said Meseyton-Neufeld. "The Great Slipper Swap program for seniors (a previous Dr. John Wade Grant recipient) operated out of Langruth, so having the newly trained babysitters help seniors complete a home safety checklist offers additional reinforcement for a safety message to seniors. An added bonus is the positive mental health benefits that youth get by giving back to community members and the seniors get a social connection with youth. It's a win-win situation." "We know that in communities across our province, young people are minding younger siblings and spending time with grandparents and elders, if parents are working outside the home, for example," said Laurie Thompson. "Helping Langruth Elementary train young people to better care for younger children and help safeguard seniors has the opportunity to not only inject patient safety culture into people at a young age, it also has the opportunity to instill a deep sense of community stewardship."

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's grants are named in honour of Dr. John G. Wade. The University of Manitoba medical school graduate is internationally-recognized for his pioneering work in patient safety. Wade can be described as the "Father of Patient Safety in Canada". His leadership led to the creation of both the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety. The Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiatives Grant provides funds to projects to encourage projects in support of patient safety initiatives in Manitoba.

Created in 2004, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of healthcare for Manitobans. The Institute's patient safety initiatives like *It's Safe To Ask* have been replicated across Canada and internationally.

Patient safety can be defined as activities that caregivers, patients and families engage in to prevent harm to patients and work towards providing the safest possible care. Examples are disclosing when things go wrong, studying patient incidents to find ways to prevent them, apologizing, creating standard procedures such as checklists, and creating cultures that are open to patient and caregiver team input.

High-Res photographs of Grant recipients can be found at www.mips.ca.

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Media Contact:

Denise Widmeyer

Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety

204-927-6471