

17 April 2008

Dear ACFP Members:

**Subject: A Message from the ACFP President - April 17, 2008**

Diving into my role as the new ACFP President, I am directly involved with the exciting work and activities that go on behind the scenes at the ACFP. This update is the first of many I will send during my term to keep you informed about the issues and challenges the ACFP is working on. I'd like you to join me on this journey, and become more involved with your College. I encourage you to email me your comments or concerns at [acfpres@acfp.ca](mailto:acfpres@acfp.ca).

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**Do you wonder what the ACFP is doing for you?** Over the next several months, I will visit the health regions to meet face-to-face with family physicians.

Please join me at the Members' Forum in your area to discuss how best your provincial College can serve you. The forums are open to all family physicians, not just ACFP members. To date we have scheduled forums in the following areas:

|                      |              |         |                                   |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Peace Country        | 12 May 2008  | 6 pm    | QEII Auditorium, Grande Prairie   |
| Aspen East           | 14 May 2008  | 6 pm    | Shaw House-Moose Lake, Bonnyville |
| Palliser             | 29 May 2008  | 5:30 pm | Cypress Club, Medicine Hat        |
| Northern Lights East | 19 June 2008 | 6 pm    | Sawridge Hotel, Fort McMurray     |

Visit the ACFP website at [www.acfp.ca](http://www.acfp.ca) for more information, and stay tuned for details on the Members' Forum in your area. I look forward to meeting you.

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**Bending the Government's Ear.** Moving forward with our advocacy work, I have requested meetings with government officials including the Minister and Parliamentary Assistant of Alberta Health and Wellness, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

These meetings provide us with an opportunity to suggest ways in which the ACFP and the Alberta government can work together to improve care for Albertans, and improve access to quality, affordable health care. I will keep you updated on the outcomes of these meetings.

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**Do you know the next Family Physician of the Year?** I invite you to honour a friend or colleague with a nomination for the 2008 Family Physician of the Year – Reg L. Perkin Award.

This esteemed award is presented annually to a family physician who has demonstrated excellence in different areas of family practice.

The ACFP is now accepting nominations. Visit [www.acfp.ca](http://www.acfp.ca) for award criteria and the nomination form. Deadline for nominations is Friday, May 2, 2008.

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Again, I invite you to share your thoughts and concerns. Please email me at [acfpres@acfp.ca](mailto:acfpres@acfp.ca).

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Ward, MD, CCFP, FCFP  
President  
Alberta College of Family Physicians