



The Honourable Jim Prentice
Premier of Alberta
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

September 17, 2014

Dear Premier Prentice:

We would first like to congratulate you on your new leadership role. There are great opportunities ahead and your description of a strong and decisive leadership, creating tangible results brings us hope.

We, the undersigned organizations, believe that Alberta's health care system has the potential to be a world leader in quality, patient service, and value for dollar. The path to superior performance is known. There is a solid base of evidence showing how to organize a health system to simultaneously improve quality, reduce costs, and serve patients well. It is done elsewhere in the world, and we have leaders in Alberta who have shown that the key elements can be done here. We need only set Alberta upon this path and commit ourselves for the long term to put the knowledge available to us into practice.

We would like to commend you on your mandate letter to Minister Mandel. The areas of focus align well with our common desire to transform Alberta's health system to a high-performance learning system, rivaling the world's leaders, using the following evidence-based principles:

- A strong and integrated primary care foundation, organized on the principles of the Medical Home model, as already contemplated in the province's Primary Health Care Strategy
- Team-based care in both primary and specialty services
- Systems-based care, including ready access to and near-real-time use of data; evidence-based clinical pathways modified constantly by front-line users based on routinely collected process and outcome data from their own practices
- Measurement and evaluation aimed at system improvement, not blame-finding
- Care integration across specialties and between primary and acute care
- Incentive and compensation models designed to support functional goals
- Leadership committed to, and evaluated on, implementing a Learning Organization

At its present state, we recognize that Alberta is underperforming this potential and we commit to work collaboratively with each other for the well-being of Albertans. Alberta is the home of a group of passionate and influential leaders currently working in health care system—they have witnessed far too much instability within the health portfolio over the years and are committed to implementing positive change that can affect their patients' lives.

The principles outlined above are imperative to progress Alberta's health system and the undersigned are committed to stabilizing the future of health care in Alberta.



We are present and accessible to provide guidance and support to make this common goal of delivering the best health care for Albertans, and to provide an example to the rest of the world.

Dr. Patricia R. Smith, MD, BSc, LMCC, CCFP
President, Alberta College of Family Physicians

Dr. John T. Chmelicek, MD, CCFP, FAAFP, FAWM
President-Elect, Alberta College of Family Physicians

Dr. Ann R. Vaidya B.Sc. MD (CFPC - FM, CofE)
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Chair, PCN Evolution Implementation Committee

Dr. Peter McKernen
Chair, PCN Leads Executive
(South Zone) Representative

Dr. Phillip van der Merwe
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Dr. Cy Frank
President and CEO
Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions



Cc:

The Honourable Stephen Mandel, Minister of Health

David Breakwell, Deputy Minister of Health

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