

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Media Advisory****Alberta College of Family Physicians Responds to Election Promise
for Family Care Clinics**

EDMONTON, AB, April 16, 2012 – The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP), the voice of family medicine for Alberta family doctors, would like to clarify its position on Premier Alison Redford’s election promise to build 140 family care clinics (FCCs) in the next three years.

“We took our role on the advisory committee to evaluate the three pilot family care clinics very seriously. Being mindful that multidisciplinary models of health care are already in place in the form of Primary Care Networks, we wanted to ensure that family care clinics could build upon current success,” says Dr. Cathy Scrimshaw, President of the Alberta College of Family Physicians. “The announcement of expanding to 140 family care clinics in the next three years would circumvent our chance to effectively evaluate and provide valuable feedback.”

The ACFP responded to Premier Redford’s office and shared its concerns in an open letter to its membership. The ACFP wants to stress that it did not support expansion of the family care clinics without family physician feedback and involvement, and without proper evaluation. Family doctors are essential members of Alberta’s health care teams that provide care to patients, families and communities, and must be consulted in order to provide stability in the delivery of health care in this province.

The ACFP is very supportive of interdisciplinary teams in order to produce the best possible health outcomes for our patients and the communities we serve. Our support for a team-based approach is rooted in the College of Family Physicians of Canada’s vision of the *Patient’s Medical Home* (PMH), where it strongly advocates for enhanced support for the roles and responsibilities of other health professionals including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and others. The PMH vision focuses on family practice and on ensuring that it will appropriately evolve in order to better meet the growing and changing needs of our population. It assumes that the feedback from Canadians, which consistently indicates how highly having personal family physicians and family practices for themselves and their families is valued, is valid and is not about to change.¹

“It is important to note that the ACFP welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on delivery models for comprehensive care,” Dr. Scrimshaw continues. “We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the Government of Alberta to advance health care and ensuring that all Albertans have access to the care they need.”

¹[“A Vision for Canada: Family Practice - The Patient’s Medical Home,”](#) September 2011, College of Family Physicians of Canada.

About the Alberta College of Family Physicians

The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) is a professional, voluntary organization representing more than 3,300 family physicians in Alberta. Established more than fifty years ago, the ACFP strives for excellence in family practice through advocacy, continuing medical education and primary care research. The ACFP is a Chapter of the College of Family

Physicians of Canada (CFPC), a nationwide organization with more than 26,000 members. For more information on the ACFP, visit www.acfp.ca.

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Media Contact:

Wendy Steele, Communications and Conference Coordinator
Alberta College of Family Physicians
780-488-2395/800-361-0607
wendy.steele@acfp.ca