



December 21, 2012

A Message from the ACFP President to Alberta Family Doctors

Dear Colleagues:

The past few months have been very difficult for family physicians. The settlement imposition, the planned Family Care Clinics and potential loss of vital financial support have led to an atmosphere of uncertainty and anger. The experiences that energize me on a personal level are the ongoing interactions with my patients. From the delivery of a much wanted and waited for child, to supporting a family caring for their terminally ill father at home, to the young snowboarder (who I delivered) with the fractured arm that needed reduction, I realize that these relationships are the most important aspect of my work as a family doctor. Seeing ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances and being a part of their lives is a great privilege. I cannot help but feel fortunate to have the support of my patients, my colleagues and the community where I live and work.

We have a significant opportunity to lead the evolution of primary care in Alberta. Family physicians are essential to the health and well being of Albertans: we understand the complex needs of our patients. The unique relationship between family physicians and our patients is trusted, intimate and life-long. It is the heart of the discipline of family medicine, and is what distinguishes us in our profession.

The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP) will continue to advocate for our members and their values, beliefs and skills. We will continue working with health stakeholders, policy-makers and government to ensure that best practices and evidence-based models are incorporated into Alberta's health care models. We are committed to creating a seamless, comprehensive scope of services for patients.

I urge you to become involved in your professional organization and in advocacy efforts. Participate in primary care research, discussion, and planning. Demonstrate the vital role of family physicians in our health care system. Become involved and make the most of this opportunity to help shape the future of primary care in Alberta.

On behalf of the Board and staff at the ACFP, I wish you a most peaceful and joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,

Cathy Scrimshaw, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President
Alberta College of Family Physicians