



*Deputy Premier  
Office of the Minister  
MLA, Edmonton-Glenora*

JUL 04 2017

AR 143077

Lisa Holmes  
President  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
300- 8616 51 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6E 6E6

Dear Lisa Holmes:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution that calls for models of remuneration that support greater integration of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Alberta's health system and more opportunities for NPs to receive financial reimbursement for their services. Alberta Health values the benefits that NPs bring to our health system and the quality health care they provide to Albertans.

In 2016/2017, the Ministry launched the NP Demonstration Project. This three-year demonstration project places NPs, and primarily funds their remuneration, alongside other providers working in community health settings to meet the health needs of both urban and rural Albertans. Community health centres participating in this project include Boyle McCauley Health Centre, the Alex Community Health Centre, the Calgary Urban Project Society and an independent NP clinic at Pure North in Calgary. These projects participating in the Project will be evaluated to assess the impacts of the role of NPs in team-based care; if/how NPs meet population health needs; and outcomes to inform decision-making about utilization and sustainable funding of NPs. The Institute of Health Economics is leading this evaluation. Results from the evaluation will be used by the Ministry to develop future policies related to sustainable remuneration models for health care providers, including NPs, in the community. If you have further questions about the Project, I would encourage you to contact Michael Ducie, Director of Alternative Compensation, at 780-638-3193 or [michael.ducie@gov.ab.ca](mailto:michael.ducie@gov.ab.ca).

Alberta Health has also encouraged expanding the scope of the Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP) to include other health care professionals. As a result, the Alberta RPAP has launched a pilot project that will provide funding for up to 25 University of Alberta Registered Nursing students or students completing the Nurse Practitioner stream. Under this project, students will complete 340 to 400 practicum hours and live in rural Alberta communities.

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Further identifying and responding to gaps in access to care and introducing collaborative teams into the health system that include NPs are priorities for Alberta Health. Our vision is a health care system that provides the right care, in the right place, at the right time, by the right health professionals, with the right information. This means shifting from a focus on hospitals and facilities to more community-based care closer to home. It is a vision where health care is structured around people and their community. Moving to community-based care truly needs to be a collaborative process. This process will take time, but I am encouraged by you sharing your ideas about how we might do that.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hoffman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Hoffman  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Health