



INFORMATION BULLETIN
Christian Health Association of Alberta
Members

**Meeting with
Honourable Minister Dave Hancock
Alberta Health and Wellness
August 16, 2007**

On August 16, 2007, at the invitation of the Minister of Alberta Health and Wellness, a contingent of eight representatives from the Christian Health Association of Alberta and the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation met with Minister Dave Hancock, Deputy Minister Paddy Meade, Assistant Deputy Minister Annette Trimbee, Executive Assistant Fred Horne, and other administrative staff, including legal and communication personnel.

CHAA was represented by Marilyn Snow, Greer Black, and Harold James. ACHC was represented by Tom Wispinski, Michael Shea, and Patrick Dumelie. Rounding out the eight-person contingency from the voluntary sector were Mary Pat Skene and Kent Harrold, who were invited to the meeting by the Ministry of Health.

In his letter of invitation, Minister Hancock referred to the comprehensive review currently underway by government related to infection prevention and control practices, and review of governance arrangements and roles and responsibilities for quality assurance and patient safety. Voluntary health service providers represented by the CHAA and ACHC were included in the discussion on these topics and were invited to be involved in the ongoing process with the Health Region Chairs as the Government leads this process for positive change in the provincial health care system.

We were pleased with the Minister's statement that the Government is supportive of voluntary health care as part of the provincial health care system, but we also clearly understand his desire to address some of the issues in the system. We heard that there is recognition of the need for strong provincial direction and more consistency between Health Regions, to which the voluntary sector is accountable. We also discussed the need for the relationship between the Voluntaries and the Health Regions to be strengthened with the Voluntaries being in the best position to articulate the value they bring to the system.

To this end, CHAA and ACHC have committed our organizations to be part of a task force to develop recommendations concerning the agreements under which we operate. With provincial government leadership of the process, we will be pleased to engage discussion on our Master, Cooperation, and Service Agreements; deliberations on governance, accountabilities, roles, and responsibilities; and provincial health standards, especially in the areas of infection control and

outcome measurements. This process is critical in the formation of the response to the recent Health Quality Council Report and to the pending review of any proposed changes to the Regional Health Authority Act.

CHAA and ACHC have named Michael Shea, CEO of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, Patrick Dumelie, President of Caritas Health Group (Edmonton), and Greer Black, CEO of Bethany Care Society (Calgary) to represent us in the Government review process. We have confidence in the ability of our colleagues to bring our views to the table and to ensure that voluntary health care through CHAA and ACHC will be part of the solution to any challenges in health care as we participate with Government and Health Regions in the review process.

The CHAA is committed to work with our representatives as they engage this work on our behalf and we support cooperative efforts of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in this important work.

Please contact Marilyn Snow, Chair at 430-3425 with any questions or comments.