



ALBERTA
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Office of the Minister

July 12, 2005

Mr. John Clark
14815 - 123 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 2Y7

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your June 15, 2005 letter regarding a recent article in the *Edmonton Sun*. I appreciate your support and am pleased to respond.

As a government, we are committed to providing quality health care. I believe that all Albertans deserve the best possible care, and that people must take some responsibility for their personal health by making healthy lifestyle choices. To that end, I am willing to explore incentives that encourage and reward healthy choices.

The regional health authorities (RHAs) in Alberta are responsible for providing health care and support services in their respective regions. These responsibilities include determining and providing the specific types and levels of service, and promoting service delivery mechanisms that support the timely and efficient delivery of quality services to patients.

With respect to your comments regarding health care infrastructure, the RHAs are also responsible for determining how they will use the lands, buildings or structures they own. From time to time, RHAs may determine a specific property is no longer required for health care delivery, and can request disposal of this property. This type of transaction is regulated under the Regional Health Authorities Regulation 15/95 and is subject to provincial policy. Under section 2.6 and 2.7 of the Regional Health Authorities Regulation, health authorities require ministerial approval to dispose of an interest in land and/or facilities. Cabinet approval is also required. RHAs must also receive "fair value" when disposing of land and/or facilities. Proceeds from these transactions are deposited into a designated account, which can then be used by the RHAs to advance other capital initiatives that are supported by Alberta Health and Wellness.

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