



**Covenant
Health**

*Compassionate care led
by Catholic values*

Office of the President

June 28, 2010

The Edmonton Journal
10006 - 101 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5J 0S1

Attention: Allan Mayer, Editor in Chief

Letter to the Editor: "Alberta government health reform short on specifics," June 23, 2010

Dear Mr. Mayer,

As a major health care provider working within the integrated provincial health system, Covenant Health commends the members of the public who have taken the time to participate in the Government's public consultation on the Alberta Health Act. We believe their participation is an important step in building the trust and collaboration necessary to transform our health care system.

Covenant Health was privileged to present to the Premier's Advisory Council on Health last October, as the Government sought input, perspective and advice on critical issues related to the effectiveness of the health care legislation that guides our work.

As an organization with almost 150 years of service in Alberta, we are committed to advancing a vision of health and a health care system that encompasses the physical, emotional, spiritual and social well-being of Albertans. We support the development of a health system that is based on societal values and a clear vision for Alberta and a legislative framework that enables and promotes innovation, collaboration and accountability. We were pleased to see a commitment to this vision in the consultation process.

We applaud MLA Fred Horne and the committee in its efforts to engage all stakeholders—including patients and families—in developing a legislative framework for health care that extends beyond the restructuring of health care services to bring about a transformation to an integrated, patient-focused system that is outcome-oriented.

This is difficult work that takes courage, patience and trust. In recent weeks, the public consultation has been criticized for focussing on 'vague, nice principles' with few details. It is only natural to want to know the end of the story when we are in the middle of the journey. But what happens here is absolutely critical to the unfolding of the tale—and a satisfying ending.

We encourage all Albertans to participate, sharing what's important to them and their community. It is truly the only way we can work together to move from feelings of frustration and fear to inspiration and hope. It is the only way to clarify our values and expectations as a society in order to lay down some principles and standards, and determine some clear outcomes and accountabilities for our health care system.

Regards,

Patrick Dumelie
President and CEO

cc. The Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier
The Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Health and Wellness
Fred Horne, MLA, Edmonton-Rutherford