

The President's Letter

Dr. G.N. (Gerry) Kiefer



March 13, 2007

Dear Member:

Yesterday, the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) emailed and faxed the March 10 news release, as well as my speaking notes, announcing the AMA had reached a tentative two-year fiscal agreement with Alberta Health and Wellness and the regional health authorities.

At its two-day meeting last weekend the Representative Forum (RF) unanimously supported the Board of Directors "presenting the tentative agreement for ratification." The board is recommending that members ratify the tentative agreement.

RF delegates had been fully briefed by the AMA's Executive Director, Michael A. Gormley, who had led the negotiations in the later stages, and Dr. Richard G. Johnston, chair of the AMA's Negotiating Committee.

Dr. Johnston also reviewed the possibility of binding arbitration. Dr. Patrick J. White, chair of the Job Action Group, presented its assessment of the political landscape and options.

Today, Health and Wellness Minister Dave Hancock and I released the highlights at a joint news conference.

Attached to this letter is a summary that is based on the briefing notes that were distributed yesterday to the RF delegates. The summary provides details about the tentative agreement, including:

- Compensation
- The new Retention Benefit
- The new Clinical Stabilization Initiative for under-served areas and communities in crisis
- Physician Office System Program
- Primary Care Initiative
- Other benefits and programs

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In the near future, you will also receive a copy of the tentative agreement.

To answer your questions and receive your feedback, meetings are being planned for the seven regional centres, beginning later this month. As well, several videoconferences will be scheduled for physicians in smaller communities.

You will be informed about the ratification process, the meetings and the videoconferences over the next few days.

Yours truly,

G.N. (Gerry) Kiefer, MD, FRCSC
President