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# The President's Letter

Dr. Noel W. Grisdale



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January 27, 2009

Dear Member:

I am very pleased to inform you that Alberta Medical Association (AMA) members have voted overwhelmingly in favor of ratifying the 2008-11 amending agreement. Of 3,213 AMA members who voted [3,120 - yes; 75 - no; 18 - spoiled ballots], 98% voted in favor of the agreement.

The new agreement between Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Health Services and AMA has a three-year term (April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2011) and is the third and final fiscal agreement within the eight-year trilateral master agreement. Now that an agreement is in place, work will begin immediately to implement the agreed-to changes.

The new agreement includes increases for fees of **5% for 2008-09** (2.5% already applied across the board), **5% in 2009-10** and **4.5% in 2010-11**. Fee increases for 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be implemented April 1. To view sectional allocations, go to [www.albertadoctors.org/FeesNegotiations/Allocation](http://www.albertadoctors.org/FeesNegotiations/Allocation) and log into the AMA website.

I'd like to acknowledge the value of a continued working relationship between the three parties to the agreement. This will prove essential in Alberta's evolving health care environment.

I would like to commend the members of AMA's Negotiating Committee and Physician Advocacy Group for their efforts on behalf of AMA members, and Immediate Past President Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick for laying the groundwork for this agreement in his year as AMA president.

I enjoyed meeting and hearing the concerns of physicians who attended our Negotiations Tour meetings and videoconferences. Your input will be valuable as we begin next month to prepare for Negotiations 2011!

Yours truly,

Noel W. Grisdale, MD, CCFP  
President