



Specialist Colleagues,

On Friday, April 24, the Government of Alberta reversed many of the funding changes that came into effect on March 31, 2020. This backpedal was the direct result of the dedicated grass roots efforts of Alberta's rural physicians, many of whom had been forced to make the difficult decision to change their service offerings in their communities. Their willingness to speak out about the harm created by this government's attack on physicians, alerted Albertans to the health care crisis our province is facing and forced the government to rescind some of their most destructive decisions. We are immensely grateful for the courage and tenacity of our rural colleagues in making this government recognize some of the errors it has made.

Unfortunately, the battle is not done. Alberta's specialists continue to stand united with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) and with all physicians across the province in calling upon the government to do more. They must work with the AMA to reach a negotiated agreement for our profession, with third-party arbitration if necessary. That is the only way to bring stability back to our health care system and begin to repair our trust in government.

The government also needs to realize that the only way Alberta's specialists will interact with them is with the AMA serving as our intermediary. We will not tolerate their repeated attacks on the AMA, an organization that has represented Alberta physicians for 114 years. The suggestion that the AMA has attempted to mislead Alberta's physicians is unacceptable. As we all know, the AMA is made up of our own elected physicians who work tirelessly on our behalf. We are the AMA, and we will not allow the government to attempt to silence the voice of our profession.

Alberta's health care system is complex and intertwined, and relies on everyone within that system being able to work together to protect and care for our patients. Urban, rural, family physicians and specialists – we all work together for Albertans. Albertans deserve exceptional health care through systems that aren't threatened by ill-informed decisions from a government that should instead be working with doctors to protect and improve health care for all Albertans, especially in the midst of a global pandemic.

Regards,
Specialty Care Alliance