



February 15, 2024

Dear Members,

Extraordinary Meeting update:

On Monday night, at the request of 20 section members, the SFM held its first ever “Extraordinary Meeting.” Amongst other things, it was an opportunity for members to get an update on several issues, including the current state of discussions around stabilization support for physicians providing comprehensive care, and Alberta Health’s MAPS Implementation processes. It was wonderful to see over 300 section members, associate members and SFM guests attend. In these days of great uncertainty in the health care system, it is very encouraging to see such a level of member engagement.

The following two resolutions were passed as part of the business agenda:

- *THAT the SFM Executive advocate to the Strike Team and AMA Board for the full disclosure to SFM members of the proposal put forward to government, including the names of all contributors.*
- *THAT the SFM Executive advocates that the AMA make transparent to SFM membership the criteria used to select participants in negotiations affecting family physicians.*

The SFM Executive has fulfilled these resolutions, and letters have been sent to the AMA Board of Directors regarding these matters. You can find a recording of the meeting and access a list of related resources [here \(member log-in required\)](#).

We are aware that many members are feeling uneasy in the current state of upheaval. It often feels as if there are more unanswered questions than answered questions, and that our contributions to the health of Albertans aren’t always acknowledged or appreciated. We share those feelings.

However, we are also encouraged by the state of member engagement. Family medicine has a strong, unified voice, through alignment with SRM, PLE, the departments of family medicine and the Alberta College of Family Physicians. As we move through the current

state of transition, we hope SFM members may feel some optimism because of this solidarity. . Soon, we will be able to provide finalized details to members regarding stabilization efforts. Shortly thereafter, we hope to be able to bring further details of the Physician Comprehensive Care Model to members – a model of compensation that directly supports comprehensive, longitudinal primary care.

MAPS Implementation

This week, AH will be releasing a stakeholder report regarding the first 2-year implementation plan for the MAPS initiative. I would like to pull from that document:

“Primary health care stakeholders have made it abundantly clear that they desire a role in co-creating the future primary health care system. They expressed a strong desire to participate in shaping and implementing the MAPS recommendations. They want to have a voice as active partners with Alberta Health in building the future primary health care system.”

It is good to know that AH has heard unambiguously that family physicians do not merely want a “seat at the table,” but to be wholly engaged in development of the new primary care structure in Alberta.

The SFM Executive will continue to provide updates and crucial information through all mechanisms available to us. It is clear that AH intends to move quickly, with the goal of operationalizing the new “Primary Care Organization” in the fall of 2024. It will require a great degree of time and energy from all primary care physician leaders to ensure that this new organization respects and supports the ongoing work of family physicians and does not negatively impact the care we provide to our patients.

As we move toward this goal, the SFM Executive understands that it is our mandate to keep members informed and engaged. We intend to use all modalities available.

As always, we welcome your input and perspectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Bates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Sarah Bates, Acting President
Section of Family Medicine
On behalf of your [SFM Executive](#)



Mission

- Advocate fiercely for Family Medicine.
- Collaborate to drive health system improvement.
- Achieve compensation that reflects the essential role of family physicians in the health of Albertans.

Vision

Alberta's family doctors are well-supported and financially equipped to provide accessible, quality team-based health care.



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