



Welcome to the most recent issue of Rural Rounds, which includes information and updates for members of the Section of Rural Medicine.

May 26, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, May 25-29 is Alberta Rural Health Week, an annual event organized by the [Rural Health Professions Action Plan \(RhPAP\)](#) to celebrate the importance of rural health care across Alberta. I know we all understand how essential rural and remote health is to Albertans, because we are the ones who deliver it. Your skill and dedication makes it possible for rural Albertans to receive the care they need in their own communities, close to the people and the places they know and love. This week is an ideal opportunity to remind others of why rural health matters and why it deserves to be highlighted and celebrated.

Over the course of the week, the event invites partners, communities and patients to demonstrate their support for rural health and the people who make it possible. RhPAP has put together a [toolkit](#) with resources to help communities recognize the event, including signage, logos and social media graphics. I encourage you to share the toolkit with your community so they can get involved in recognizing the importance of rural health.

New ministers of health

Last week was a busy one in Alberta politics, with a [cabinet shuffle](#) that saw the resignation of two veteran cabinet ministers – Minister of Finance Nate Horner and Minister of Hospital and Surgical Services Matt Jones – and the appointment of six new cabinet members, including several health ministries. Adriana LaGrange is now the Minister of Hospital and Surgical Services, Nathan Neudorf is the Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, and Justin Wright, who was formerly the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health, is now the Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services. Your Section of Rural Medicine Executive will be reaching out to the new

ministers directly and are looking forward to working with them to advocate for the unique needs of rural medicine.

In addition to the new ministers of health, there were several other appointments, including Jason Nixon as the Minister of Finance and Chair of the Treasury Board, RJ Sigurdson as Minister of Affordability and Utilities, and Tara Sawyer as the Minister of Agriculture. We are pleased to see the strong rural representation in these appointments and the recognition government has for the importance of rural Alberta. We will continue to advocate to ensure the voices of rural medicine are included in the discussions that impact our patients and our communities.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do for your patients, your communities and for the sustainability of rural and remote health.

Regards,
Dr. Rithesh Ram
President, Section of Rural Medicine