
January 20, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this month, you received an invitation to complete a survey on the Rural Remote and Northern Program (RRNP). As many of you know, the 2022 AMA Agreement included a commitment to formally review the program so that the AMA and government can assess its efficiency and explore recommendations for any changes that could improve the program. The survey, which closes on Wednesday, January 22, is looking to gather information on what you think should be considered. AMA President Dr. Shelley Duggan explained the goals of the survey in her [January 8 President's Letter](#) and sent a reminder this past Friday. If you haven't already done so, [please complete the survey](#) so that your input is considered and included. If you have any questions, there is a Q&A document included with the survey, which you can find [here](#).

One of the major announcements from the fall of 2024 was the launch of the rural team and municipalities grant programs. [The Rural Team Recruitment Grant Program](#) was open to rural community organizations and clinics interested in hiring more team members to increase clinic capacity, while [the Municipality Supported Clinics Grant Program](#) was intended to help rural municipalities or regions take on responsibility for clinic ownership or operations within their community. I'm pleased to share that if all applications are approved, they will account for approximately 96% of the funding that was allocated for the programs. This is an excellent uptake on a grant funding that was clearly needed and welcomed by rural clinics and communities. I look forward to seeing the impact these grants will have on rural medicine and finding opportunities to work with government on initiatives that will improve the lives of rural Albertans and the communities where we live.

In my last issue of Rural Rounds, I explained that while the PCCM announcement was welcome news, it did not address the unique needs of rural and that we would be working with government directly to develop additional layers to the PCCM. These layers will be designed to ensure rural medicine has what is required to remain sustainable for current and future physicians. That work is already underway, and I will have more to share soon.

In that same issue, I noted that before we can move ahead with other work, we need to know more about you, your practice and your priorities. We also need to know how the Section of Rural Medicine can ensure we are advocating for you in ways that have an impact. We are currently finalizing a survey that we intend to share with you in early February, and I am eager to hear your thoughts so we can do the work that needs to be done.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do. You will be hearing from us soon.

Regards,

Dr. Rithesh Ram
President, Section of Rural Medicine