



ALBERTA
HEALTH

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton-Glenora*

March 1st 2019

Dear Nurse Practitioner,

I'm writing to update you on two initiatives that will move us towards our shared goal – a larger and more prominent role for nurse practitioners in healthcare in Alberta.

First, I announced changes to regulations last Fall that expand your scope of practice, specifically to allow the setting and resetting of bone fractures. These regulation changes also allow nurse practitioners on the courtesy or provisional registers to perform all the activities allowed for those on the general register. I am confident these regulatory changes underscore your valuable role in healthcare and help expand the public's understanding of that role.

The second initiative flows out of the \$10-million demonstration projects we launched in 2016 to explore the increased use of nurse practitioners in primary care, particularly in areas that serve vulnerable population. We partnered with Calgary Urban Project Society, the Alex Community Health Center, the Boyle McCauley Health Center, and Sage Seniors Association of Edmonton to do this work.

The results of these demonstration projects in terms of patient satisfaction, increased numbers of patients accessing care, and nurse practitioners themselves being able to work to their full scope of practice have been very positive.

As a result, I am proud to tell you that Alberta Health is now launching a Primary Care Network (PCN) Nurse Practitioner Support Program that will support and expand nurse practitioners in primary healthcare. Through a \$38.5-million investment over three years, funding will be provided to PCNs specifically for the purpose of supporting nurse practitioners currently working in PCNs as well as hiring 50 more nurse practitioners across the province over the next two years. The PCN funding formula will be revised to increase nurse practitioner involvement in primary health care, and to allow nurse practitioners to create their own patient panels.

This funding will help build a stronger foundation for nurse practitioners in primary care, something I know you and your colleagues have waited on for a long time. As part of community-based primary health care teams, I am confident that nurse practitioners will play a very important role in helping build a healthier Alberta.

In closing, I want to thank you for all the work you do to provide vital healthcare to Alberta families. Together, we will be building on this success in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" written in a smaller, more legible script than the last name "Hoffman", which is written in a more stylized, larger cursive.

Sarah Hoffman
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health