



# **Presentation to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health**

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## Presentation Overview

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## About the Chamber

- Represents more than 3,200 members.
- 75% of members are small businesses
- Leading forum for discussion and debate on critical public policy issues, and advocate of new ideas, approaches and solutions.



## Rationale for Chamber Submission

- Health expenditures account for ~35% of the provincial budget:
  - Achieving cost savings may help the government create an even more competitive business environment through tax reductions
  - Ensuring the highest quality care with minimal wait times is essential to attract the high-end talent Calgary's business needs to succeed
- The Chamber's Health Committee is comprised of a number of private health providers, and SMEs from other sectors, interested in healthcare issues



## Establishing Clear Lines of Accountability

- Tri-Partite regulatory oversight is duplicative, especially from Alberta Health & Wellness (AHW)
- Private providers find the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to be helpful
- There is a need for a collaborative approach to the development and implementation of regulations involving:
  - Health Providers (Public/Private, For-Profit/Non-Profit)
  - Alberta Health Services
  - Alberta Health & Wellness
  - CPSA



## A Collaborative Approach to a Streamlined Regulatory Environment

- All parties agree that patient safety and quality of care stand at the apex of any legislative / regulatory change
- The current regulatory regime takes resources away from the patient and directs those resources to compliance
- A streamlined environment, where AHS and CPSA act collaboratively as regulators, improves access to care by allowing providers to direct resources to the patient



## A Competitive Facilities Market

- Competition is a principle missing from the Committee's discussion document
- Plausible benefits of increased competition:
  - Lowered costs as providers compete for patients
  - Higher rates of technological adoption as providers seek productivity gains



## A Competitive Facilities Market

- A renewed legislative framework could facilitate competition by:
  - Ensuring that contracts are structured in a similar fashion to commercial contracts
  - Facilitating alternative funding models (i.e. patient focused funding)
  - Decreasing Ministerial authority over NHSF's and, consequently AHW oversight



## Cooperation to Mitigate Cost Escalation

- The whole system should benefit from the economies of scale generated by AHS
- If AHS is able to negotiate joint procurement agreements with non-AHS providers the entire system benefits through reduced costs



## Recommendations

1. Repeal the *Health Care Protection Act*
  - In doing so, prioritize patient safety by ensuring that Alberta Health Services and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta collaborate on creating a streamlined regulatory environment.
2. Make certain that any legislative change facilitates competition in the surgical facilities market.
3. Ensure, where possible, that any legislative change helps create a level playing field for all health care providers by cooperating in the distribution of resources.



## Thank you

- Please note that questions fielded by Chamber members regarding detailed aspects of their businesses and operations do not necessarily reflect Chamber policy.