



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Minister's Advisory Committee on Health report could improve private sector's ability to deliver public health care**

(Calgary, AB) – The Calgary Chamber of Commerce welcomed the delivery of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health report today. The Committee consulted on legislation changes to improve Alberta's health care system. Chamber representatives and members from its standing Health Committee presented to the group in October 2009.

"Calgary's business community is pleased to see the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health has seized an opportunity to create real change in Alberta's health care system with the recommendation for a new *Alberta Health Act*," said Heather Douglas, President & CEO with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is advocating for health care system changes as expenditures account for over 35 per cent of the provincial budget, the largest budgetary item.

"We commend the Committee for their recognition of how difficult it is for both providers and people to navigate through the maze of health legislation," commented Douglas. "We hope the government will take advantage of the framework offered by the Committee to introduce more choice in patient care and a streamlined regulatory environment."

During the presentation to the Advisory Committee, the Chamber advocated that Alberta Health Services adopt the principle of competition. This would require adjustment of the *Health Care Protection Act* to allow greater competition in the surgical facilities market, reduce duplicative regulatory oversight, and level the playing field for both for-profit and non-profit facilities to access the cost savings of bulk purchases of equipment and supplies by Alberta Health Services.

The Chamber's submission and presentation slides are available at: [www.calgarychamber.com](http://www.calgarychamber.com)

**About the Chamber**

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, sustainable organization whose mission is to connect, serve and champion the Calgary business community in its quest to excel.

The Public & Government Affairs Department measurably contributes to the Chamber's profile and effectiveness. We are the leading edge business advocate and forum for debate, and a credible source for policy analysis and issue commentary. We advocate new and innovative solutions to improve the business climate on behalf of our members.



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