

Creating Synergy

HEALTH COALITION OF ALBERTA

November 4, 2009

Co-Chairs MLA Horne & Deb Prowse
721 Legislature Annex
Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Dear MLA Horne & Deb Prowse:

RE: Submission to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health related to:

- **The preliminary principles and themes outlined by the Committee and**
- **Other related issues viewed as priorities for our health care system by Creating Synergy: Health Coalition of Alberta.**

Thank you for the invitation to make this submission to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health.

Please see the attached document.

Creating Synergy: Alberta Coalition on Health is an alliance of voluntary health sector and consumer groups who advocating with a united voice for better access to optimal health care for all Albertans. Our vision is: *The best people-centered health care for all Albertans*. There are about 135 health sector and health charity groups in Alberta all of whom were originally invited to participate in a health care forum to discuss the formation of Creating Synergy in 2006. Of these, 25 organizations and individuals have formally identified with Creating Synergy and another 50 are closely affiliated. We are also closely affiliated with the Best Medicines Coalition which is a national alliance of patient and consumer organizations, groups and individuals with similar goals for health care for Canadians.

Creating Synergy has taken note of the many changes in Alberta's health care system over this past one-and-a-half years and has tried to analyze and respond accordingly to the impacts which not only affect us as a coalition of patient and consumer organizations but also as individuals, families and communities in Alberta. The majority of individuals

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who are members of the organizations affiliated with Creating Synergy live with various health conditions including chronic diseases and disabilities. They are some of the primary users of the health care system and have experienced some positive as well as poor and unsafe care over the years. This past year has been particularly challenging for health care and for many patients and Albertans generally.

As the voice of the patient and health care consumer in Alberta, Creating Synergy speaks about and strives for safer and improved team-based people-focused health care prevention and treatment practices and policies. We believe we have an obligation to respond to this invitation and to provide you with our perspectives and experiences related to the principles and themes outlined by the Minister's Advisory Committee and to other issues which we see as priorities for our health care delivery system.

Thank you again for this opportunity! We look forward to any follow up coming out of the presentations and submissions.

Sincerely,



Katharina Kovacs Burns, MSc, MHSA, PhD
Chair: Creating Synergy

ATTACHMENT

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