



United Nurses of Alberta

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Honourable Fred Horne
Minister of Health
208 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Horne:

I am writing this morning to express my grave concern at statements you made this morning on CBC Radio and possibly to other news organizations and to request a meeting with you to clear the air about our response yesterday on the announcement to our members by senior Alberta Health Services staff that 35 beds would be closing at the High River General Hospital.

Whether senior managers at the facility gave our members the wrong information or your department has overruled them is irrelevant. What is troubling is that a minister of the Crown would dismiss UNA's entirely legitimate concerns and its accurate statement about them as rumour mongering, speculation and other such terms.

Moreover, it is also quite surprising that you would have suggested to the public that UNA should be checking statements made by AHS managers with your office, which would be highly irregular and a completely at odds with what health care employee unions have been told for years is legally and practically the nature of their relationship with their employer.

For the record, UNA's statements were made in response to clear and unequivocal statements by senior AHS managers at a meeting called by those managers and attended both by members who work in the facility and professional union staff.

All this said, I am very pleased that you have now made a firm commitment to keep open 75 of the long-term care beds in High River and I hope that we can meet, agree on whom UNA needs to deal with to get accurate information about AHS plans and move forward with a positive working relationship.

Yours very truly,

Bev Dick
First Vice-President, United Nurses of Alberta