



United Nurses of Alberta

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December 2, 2019

Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6
health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister,

I am requesting a meeting to discuss the letters received by United Nurses of Alberta from Alberta Health Services Lead Negotiator Raelene Fitz on November 29, 2019 announcing the elimination of 500 full-time equivalent front-line Registered Nurse and Registered Psychiatric Nurse positions.

We estimate the elimination of that many RN and RPN FTEs, equivalent to over a million fewer hours of care, will mean more than 750 front-line RNs and RPNs will be laid off.

As the union representing more than 30,000 RNs, RPNs, and allied health workers in Alberta, this news has created an urgent concern from our membership to clarify the government's intentions.

AHS also stated in the letter that it plans to reconfigure services provided at smaller worksites, close acute beds and reduce clinic access. The letter stated that the bed closures and service reductions could start to take place in 2020, which is less than 30 days away from now.

The letter did not state which worksites these closures would effect, which is a concern to our members, who work in nearly every community across Alberta.

Page 12 of the United Conservative Party platform reiterates that a UCP government would "Balance the budget in the first term through economic growth and prudent spending without cutting front-line services." We expect the government to honour that promise.

Please have your office contact UNA executive assistant Shelley Hodgson at shodgson@una.ca or 780-425-1025 at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith
President, United Nurses of Alberta