



United Nurses of Alberta

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August 20, 2020

Premier Jason Kenney
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney,

On August 18, 2020, the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) submitted feedback in response to an invitation by Alberta Health regarding proposals to amend the Health Professions Act to Improve Regulatory Efficiency and Effectiveness.

Our feedback outlined several concerns, namely the importance for health professions to self-regulate, the lack of evidence to support the proposed revisions, the timing of the invitation in the midst of a pandemic, as well as the need for broader consultation given the gravity of these proposals.

At its core, the Health Professions Act endeavours to ensure Albertans receive safe and competent healthcare in our province. Any revisions need to be done in a meaningful, public, independent, and comprehensive manner.

We are writing to you today because on August 19, 2020 your Issues Manager Brian Bateson published a derogatory remark on Twitter dismissing UNA's response to the proposed changes on the basis of the political history of the letter's signer, UNA's First Vice President Danielle Larivee.

This is highly problematic for United Nurses of Alberta because as a democratically elected leader for our organization, Ms. Larivee was not speaking for herself but was speaking on behalf of the more than 30,000 nurses and other frontline health care workers that UNA represents as a non-partisan organization. Mr. Bateson was not just dismissing the response of Ms. Larivee, but was dismissing the voices of all the members who chose her to speak on their behalf.

Mr. Bateson's conduct is completely unacceptable. His dismissal comes after the repeated refusal of Minister Shandro to meet with UNA despite your previous commitment in 2019 that your government was open to meeting with public sector unions. Together these actions demonstrate a complete disrespect for the hard working frontline nurses of Alberta.

UNA is calling on your office to apologize to our members for this disrespect and to arrange a meeting to discuss the concerns of our members as soon as possible. Our

members as frontline workers are committed to ensuring that Albertans receive safe and competent care and we must work together to ensure the best interests of Albertans are being served.

With respect to the proposed amendments to the HPA, UNA is calling on the government to bring together health care professional associations, regulators, and unions in more meaningful discussions to ensure that all of us, collectively, enable Albertans to continue receiving high quality, evidence-based, publicly delivered health care.

We look forward to your response and to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



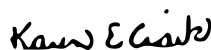
Heather Smith, RN
President,
United Nurses of Alberta



Danielle Larivee, RN
First Vice-President
United Nurses of Alberta



Cameron Westhead, RN
Second Vice-President
United Nurses of Alberta



Karen Craik, RN
Secretary/Treasurer
United Nurses of Alberta

c.c: Rachel Notley, Official Leader of the Opposition
Alberta College of Occupational Therapists
Alberta College of Social Workers
Alberta Medical Association
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta
College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta
Dona Carlson, Health Profession Regulation, Alberta Health
Health Sciences Association of Alberta