



January 2, 2024

The Honourable Dan Williams
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
Alberta Mental Health and Addiction
130 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Via Email: mha.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health
Alberta Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Via Email: health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Ministers:

Re: Refocusing the Health Care System

We are writing in response to the December 8, 2023 *Message from the Minister of Health* invitation to the "Refocusing the Health Care System" Town Hall Invitation. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank both ministries for the ongoing opportunities to provide feedback on recent mental health initiatives throughout this past year. Notwithstanding our separate and unique mandates, we share an overriding goal of promoting and safeguarding the public interest in the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective, and evidence-based professional psychological services to Albertans.

It is with this spirit in mind we would like to highlight/provide supporting documentation regarding some of the current and ongoing roles psychologists serve in the four priority sectors of primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction:

Primary Care [Primary Care](#)

- The BC model proposed for integration of psychology into the Primary Care Networks
- Expertise in program evaluation and development
- Cost efficacy of psychological treatment versus not including
- American Psychological Association: [American Psychology Practice in Primary Care](#)

Acute Care [Acute Care](#)

- Informed screening for trauma, addictions, and pathway triage
- Efficacy of psychological oncology for financial, compliance, and health outcomes
- Benefits of practice to scope

Continuing Care [Continuing Care](#)

- Expertise in program evaluation and development
- Psychology's role in Medical Assistance in Dying
- Benefits of practice to scope
- [Psychologists Palliative Care Competencies](#)

Mental Health and Addiction **MH Addiction**

- [Psychologists can Lead Shift to Recovery-Oriented Mental Healthcare](#)
- Expertise in program evaluation and development
- Psychologists can Lead Shift to Recovery -Oriented Mental Healthcare
- Models from Nova Scotia, Australia, Quebec, and Britain (Ontario only for health care providers) for identifying and funding external psychology providers (in private practice)
- Opioid crisis engagement
- Regulation of counsellors within the psychology umbrella
- Benefits of practice to scope

Psychology is also at the forefront of emerging therapies and healthcare practices. For example, this past year the College of Alberta Psychologists introduced Professional Practice Standards for psychologists' roles in Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy and Medical Assistance in Dying. These were developed to ensure Albertans interests are served as they exercise personal choice while navigating an increasingly complex healthcare system.

We look forward to continuing to work with both your ministries to create a better health care system for all Albertans now and in the future. We would be happy to meet with you and your officials to move forward the mental health interests for all Albertans.

Yours sincerely,



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