

December 20, 2022

health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Copping,

It has come to our attention that in the past few hours the Alberta Government has been placing advertisements on social media stating: "Help is on the way ... We're empowering frontline workers to deliver healthcare."

I am writing you today to seek an immediate explanation of what this means. Specifically, what measures are being taken by the Alberta Government to empower front-line workers to deliver health care?

We are aware of the government's "Healthcare Action Plan," which on the Alberta.ca website references three actions: "restore decision-making to the local level and to local health professionals," "incentivize regional innovation to provide more medical services," and "create a healthcare system that attracts more healthcare professionals to Alberta."

These points did not include any indicators of how these aspirational policies would be implemented.

We are concerned by this statement in your government's latest advertising because it implies some actions are about to be taken, yet none of our recent discussions with you or Alberta Health Services have included any mention of this advertising campaign, or to what workplace policies or actions it may refer. Conversations today with other unions representing front-line health care workers indicate that they were similarly unaware of these plans by your government.

Please let us know immediately, preferably today, what actions are in fact contemplated.

Sincerely,



Heather Smith
President, United Nurses of Alberta