

The ship is sinking...

We were stretched thin before the pandemic. Not enough bed capacity for the population and suboptimal staffing. Then the pandemic hit, we were stretched even thinner. And now we have reached the breaking point. We are no longer treading water. We are drowning and the ship is sinking.

Emergency departments and inpatient units across the province are critically short staffed and cannot keep up with the high demand. For example, there are triage line ups out the door at Alberta Children's Hospital. Sick kids standing outside in the rain last earlier this week. It is taking 2-3 hours just to be triaged adding to astronomical wait times.

Waiting rooms are full. Healthcare professionals can not keep up with required reassessments based on the acuity of the patients. The department is full. There is nowhere to put a patient that urgently needs a bed.

Children with mental health illnesses that have been in the emergency department for 6 days waiting for admission are being bumped out of their rooms to sit in chairs to make room for medically ill children.

There are no beds to admit patients to. Hospitals are over capacity.

Patients are coming by private vehicle because when they call for an ambulance they are being told there aren't any. There are no available ambulances on the road. Let that sink in...

Admitted patients are waiting 13+ hours for EMS transport to another facility.

Inpatient and critical care departments have upcoming shifts staffed at only 30% and are scrambling to reassign nurses from other areas to fill in the gaps. Working short staffed has become the norm instead of the exception.

Healthcare in Alberta has become borrowing from Paul to pay Peter. We need solutions, not bandaids.

We need nurses now. We need doctors now. We need more first responders now. We need more support staff now. We need more security staff now. We need more bed capacity now. We need more mental health beds now.

The ship is sinking and we are all going down with it...

Please help. Lives will be lost.

- A Nurse who cares about public safety