

AUGUST 2026

Triage Desk

Hello there,

Some conversations are about the future. Others remind us of where we've come from. This month, we're exploring both.

From the ongoing discussion around Alberta's health care system to the national call for renewed investment in public health care, this edition highlights the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We're also taking time to recognize significant moments in our shared history, including Heritage Day, Emancipation Day, and National Acadian Day.

Whether you're interested in health care advocacy, Canadian history, or the stories that connect us, we hope you'll take a few minutes to explore this month's edition.

Thank you, as always, for reading.

Nursing Notes



[Bill 11 and Alberta's Nursing Shortage: Why This Conversation Matters](#)

As debate around Bill 11 continues, one question remains: where will the health-care workers come from?

Alberta's health-care system is already operating at capacity, with too few nurses, physicians and other health-care professionals to meet today's demand.

Bill 11 expands where care can be delivered, but it doesn't create more health-care workers. Public hospitals and private facilities will be drawing from the same limited workforce.

Without first addressing the staffing crisis, many worry the result won't be more capacity, but a more strained public system. And when the public system loses staff, it's everyday Albertans who face the consequences through longer waits, fewer available providers, and reduced access to timely care.

That's why we're resharing [this video](#) from two years ago. While it was created before Bill 11, its message is just as relevant today without enough nurses, patients pay the price.

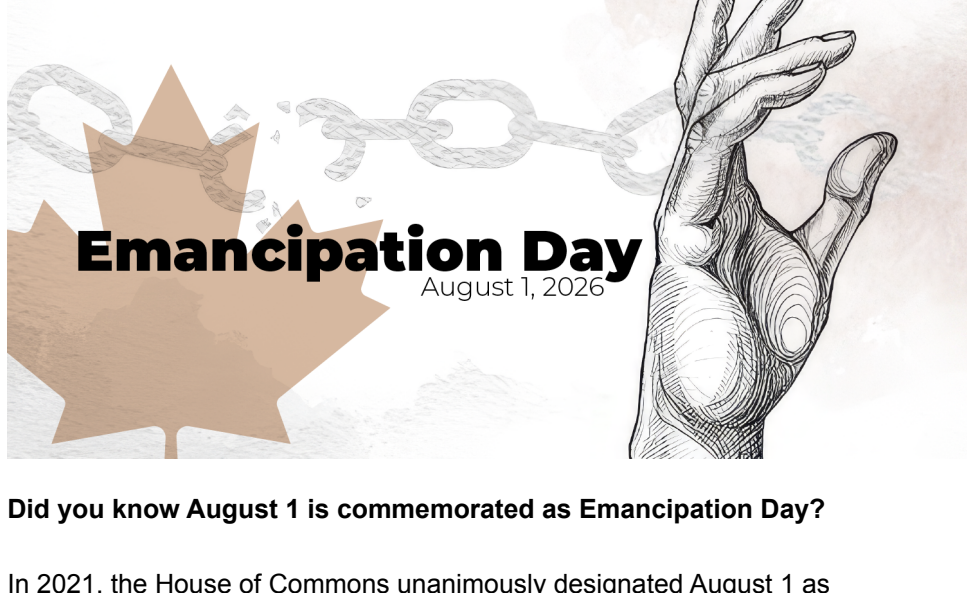
[Health Coalitions Warn Bill 11 Could Reshape Canadian Health Care](#)

United Nurses of Alberta recently joined health care advocates from across Canada in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to urge premiers to protect Canada's publicly funded health care system.

With Alberta's Bill 11 at the centre of the discussion, coalition leaders, health care workers and labour organizations raised concerns about the expansion of two-tier health care and its potential impact on accessibility, equity and the future of Medicare.

[Read more](#) about the rally, the calls for federal action and why many believe the outcome could have national implications.

Brain Food



Did you know August 1 is commemorated as Emancipation Day?

In 2021, the House of Commons unanimously designated August 1 as Emancipation Day in Canada.

Why August 1? It marks the day in 1834 when the Slavery Abolition Act came into effect across the British Empire.

Emancipation Day is an opportunity to recognize that Black people were once enslaved on the land now known as Canada.

It is also a time to honour the strength and perseverance of Black communities and reflect on the ongoing work to combat anti-Black racism and discrimination.

Although August 1 has passed, every day is an opportunity to learn from our history, celebrate resilience, and continue working together to build a more just and inclusive future.

More Than a Date on the Calendar



Some traditions stand the test of time. National Acadian Day is one of them.

First celebrated in 1881, this annual observance has brought Acadian communities together for more than a century before becoming an officially recognized day in Canada in 2003.

Every August 15, we celebrate one of Canada's oldest cultural communities and their contributions to our country's story.



Our heritage is more than history; it's the stories we tell, the traditions we keep, and the communities we build together.

This Heritage Day, we celebrate the many cultures that have helped shape Alberta and continue to make our province a vibrant place to live, work, and belong.

Happy Heritage Day!!!!

Quote of the Month

" In America, health care is big business - but in Canada it is a right."

Mark Carney - Prime Minister, Canada

What's Next?



[Canada's Nurses Urge Federal Action on Health Care](#)

As conversations about Alberta's future relationship with Canada continue, one thing remains clear: health care doesn't stop at provincial borders.

Canada's public health care system relies on strong partnerships between provincial, territorial and federal governments to deliver the care Canadians depend on every day.

That's why nurses' unions from across the country recently met with Canada's premiers to urge renewed federal investment in public health care.

With nearly \$2 billion in federal funding agreements set to expire, nurse leaders are warning that failing to act could mean reduced access to long-term care, home care, mental health services and other essential supports.

[Read the full statement](#) about why sustained national collaboration is critical to protecting Canada's public health-care system.

Let's Connect

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

We'd love to keep in touch. Follow us on our social media platforms and help us spread the word about how, together, we can support Alberta's nurses.



STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED.

Members can download the **UNA APP** here to get the latest news and updates, all in one place.



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