

April 5, 2024

Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta
Executive Branch
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

premier@gov.ab.ca

Hon. Dan Williams
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
403 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

mha.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Williams,

Alberta Health Services has indicated that timelines for the creation of the corporate structure of Recovery Alberta are dependent on the introduction of new legislation.

Both your government and AHS have said affected staff will simply move to the new employer. In fact, UNA and AHS have negotiated separate provisions in the event of a transfer of services – Letter of Understanding #4, Re: Transfer of Programs, which is attached.

This Letter of Understanding permits the transfer of employees to the new employer but provides UNA members with additional rights.

I am writing you today to urge you in the strongest possible terms to be mindful of the negotiated rights of the more than 30,000 Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses employed by the parties to the Provincial Collective Agreement, including the rights outlined in Letter of Understanding #4.

There is a widespread perception among nurses that they are disrespected by government and employers. Arbitrary removal of their negotiated rights in their collective agreement would be widely viewed as a matter of profound disrespect of front-line nurses and their profession.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Smith
President, United Nurses of Alberta