

From: Joanna Moser

Sent: March 22, 2022 9:05 PM

To: premier@gov.ab.ca <premier@gov.ab.ca>; health.minister@gov.ab.ca <health.minister@gov.ab.ca>; scott.reith@gov.ab.ca <scott.reith@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: Thank-you, inquiry into funding decisions regarding new operating room capacity and addressing the surgical backlog

Dear Premier Jason Kenney, Minister Jason Copping and Mr. Scott Reith:

I want to personally thank-you for your intervention and hard work in ensuring AHS dropped the Covid-19 vaccine mandate and mandatory rapid testing for current unvaccinated healthcare workers. This is a major step in the right direction and I thank-you for protecting Albertans against discriminatory and coercive health care policies by the only provider of healthcare in the province of Alberta. There is still more that is required from government. There is still policy #1189 in place and this policy still requires any new hires for AHS to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 which I believe is still divisive and discriminatory in the workplace, not to mention potentially causing long term adverse events. I urge you to work with AHS to remove policy #1189 in its entirety and ensure that a divisive and discriminatory policy like this is never permitted to be created or put into force in the future. I urge the UCP government to take a hard look at AHS which is top heavy with 4+ levels of high paid executives that are NDP supporters and start disassembling it to make it more efficient and to start putting our healthcare dollars into actual patient care.

On another note, I heard about the funding announcement to build 11 new operating rooms at the Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, AB. As an anesthesiologist who has completed all her training in Calgary (in all Calgary hospitals), worked at the Red Deer Regional Hospital for 2 years (still providing locum coverage as needed) and who now works at the South Health Campus in Calgary, I have first-hand and front-line knowledge of where resources could be utilized in a cost and time efficient manner. Did you know or were you aware that the South Health Campus has 11 roughed in operating rooms just waiting to be finished? We actually have walls, pipelines, electricity, doors, physical space etc in the correct location adjacent to the currently existing operating rooms. I am not a contractor or project manager, but in my humble opinion, finishing these 11 operating rooms at the South Health Campus would be far less expensive and could be expedited in a more rapid timeline than what is currently proposed. This is true for our ICU beds at the South Health Campus, they are sitting there unfinished but roughed in waiting to be completed. There has been a rumour that the reason these OR and ICU spaces are being left unfinished is because there is not enough bed capacity within the hospital. This is clearly untrue as many of our surgeries are day surgery cases (and people are sent home the same day).

The pandemic has certainly created a surgical backlog and Albertans deserve to have their surgeries in a timely fashion. We can do more in our operating rooms that are currently running at all the hospitals in Alberta. We just don't utilize them effectively. For example, at the South Health Campus on any given weekend, we utilize one single operating room (on the very odd occasion two operating rooms) for emergency cases only. We have 11 operating rooms currently so therefore 10 are sitting empty and unutilized. Why build more operating rooms at private facilities when we have the infrastructure and the staff? Why can we not operate on the

weekends and perform elective surgeries to reduce the surgical backlog? If we added even 1 or 2 elective days to our weekend operating rooms at all major hospitals across Alberta, we could reduce the surgical backlog very quickly.

I thank-you for your time and if you would ever like to speak with me directly my contact information is below. I would welcome the opportunity to give you the inside facts that I don't believe AHS is providing to your government.

I would appreciate a response directly from you prior to April 9, 2022.

Best regards,

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