



NEWS RELEASE

Alberta Municipalities responds to recent provincial announcement about nurse practitioners

November 23, 2023

EDMONTON – Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) welcomes yesterday’s announcement by the Government of Alberta that it intends to improve public access to primary health care through measures that will allow nurse practitioners to set up their own clinics in 2024.

The association has been advocating on behalf of its 265 member communities – the communities in which 85% of Albertans live – to the provincial government, asking that it create the conditions needed for nurse practitioners to deliver as much health care service as possible.

A resolution calling for the provincial government to remove the legislative and funding barriers that impede greater integration of nurse practitioners into Alberta’s health care system was passed at ABmunis’ annual Convention in late September 2023. The resolution was then shared with the Government of Alberta.

The association plans to meet with the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta, Alberta Health Services (AHS), and Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Health Martin Long to discuss these changes in the coming weeks and months.

Alberta Municipalities President Tyler Gandam expressed optimism while also tempering expectations.

“I am optimistic that Albertans will see the changes announced yesterday start showing up in their villages, towns, and cities in early 2024,” said Gandam. “Our members know all too well how the chronic shortage of family doctors and an over-stretched health care system are adversely affecting Albertans in communities of all sizes and locations.”

“We will lend whatever support we can to those who are striving to improve our province’s health care system. As the situation evolves and nurse practitioners begin opening clinics across Alberta, we will provide ongoing feedback to the provincial government, AHS and other key stakeholders about what is and isn’t working,” said Gandam.

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From the smallest village to the largest city, across every region of the province, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) represents the communities where over 85% of Albertans live. ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice. Alberta Municipalities now serves and represents more than 270 of Alberta's 334 municipalities.

We work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's summer villages, villages, town, cities, and specialized municipalities to advocate for solutions to their common issues, which we categorize as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.

And we help them build resilient and thriving communities by providing valuable services. We use our members' combined purchasing power to negotiate the best possible value and competitive pricing on employee benefits, insurance, energy, and other services needed to run an effective and efficient municipality.