

MAPS MOMENTUM

Quarterly ADM Newsletter – Winter 2026 Edition

Hello and welcome back! The Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) team is pleased to share the seventh issue of the quarterly MAPS Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) newsletter.



Message from the ADM

As we approach March 31, 2026, we reach an important milestone in the MAPS initiative – the completion of the MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan. This first phase has laid a strong foundation for change, and together, we have made remarkable progress in transforming Alberta's primary health care system.

Through initiatives like the Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (NPPC) Mentorship and Rural Team Recruitment (RTR) programs, we strengthened primary care capacity across the province. NPPC Mentorship supported 30 nurse practitioners to develop the knowledge and skills to start their independent practice, while RTR brought over 50 new health professionals to rural communities. We also expanded undergraduate medical education seats and enhanced the Alberta Find a Doctor Service improving access to primary care providers for Albertans. These achievements reflect our shared commitment to ensuring accessible, high-quality care for all.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch the 3-Year Modernization Phase which will be a bold next step that builds upon these successes and moves us toward a health system that is stronger, more innovative, and future-ready. Modernization efforts will focus on strengthening patient attachment, expanding access in rural and remote communities and embedding culturally safe, team-based care for all Albertans.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and collaboration throughout the Implementation Phase. Your efforts have delivered measurable results that are transforming primary health care across Alberta. Together, we are building a health care system that truly meets the needs of Albertans – today and in the future.



MAPS Years One and Two

We are proud to share that nearly every milestone in the MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan is either completed or well underway. Year One set the stage with major investments in digital innovation, team-based care, workforce development, and improved access for underserved communities. Year Two built on that momentum.

Highlights include:

- Alberta Find a Doctor Upgrade: The platform transitioned to Primary Care Alberta (PCA) and has made it easier for Albertans to connect with primary care providers.
- Reducing Administrative Burden: Initiatives, such as the Health Evidence Review, moved from design to implementation giving physicians more time with patients.
- Better Care Transitions: Two new Clinical Pathways were added to Alberta's Pathway hub.
- Improved Health Information Access: Patients can now effortlessly access their health records.

Key initiatives such as the primary care health services sector expectations and definitions, regional network design, and accountability framework are moving forward into the 3-year Modernization Phase to align with evolving system needs. Before wrapping up its work in September, the Provincial Primary Care Network Committee (PPCNC) played a pivotal role in the progression of the MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan action items by providing input and advice to the ministry. Three dedicated sub-committees, aligned with PPCNC's mandate, focused on critical areas of the plan:

- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PME): informed the draft development of a systems quality and outcomes framework and the MAPS Evaluation and Performance Measurement Framework to guide the assessment of progress and impact.
- Governance Design & Implementation (GDI): led engagement sessions and provided advice on the overall design and implementation of the Primary Care Organization, now known as Primary Care Alberta (PCA), and the regional network model.
- Communication and Change Management (CCM): advised on communications and change management activities and approaches related to the implementation of the MAPS initiative.

These past two years have been defined by foundational shifts toward a more accessible, equitable and collaborative primary health care system – one that helps Albertans get the care they need, when and where they need it. The progress we have made together is setting the stage for lasting change.

With nearly all milestones in the MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan either complete or on track for completion, we are entering the next phase with confidence. And while some initiatives will carry forward into the Modernization Phase, the groundwork laid this year ensures we are ready for what's next.

To view the milestones and action items, visit the MAPS dashboard here: [Modernizing primary health care – Progress on 2-year plan | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/modernizing-primary-health-care-progress-on-2-year-plan.aspx)



Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Mentorship Program

The Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (NPPC) Mentorship Program, a component of the broader Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program, is designed to support newly practicing nurse practitioners (NPs) in developing the knowledge, confidence, and competence required for a successful transition to independent practice.

The program facilitates one-to-one mentorship relationships between mentee NPs and experienced mentors, who are either NPs or physicians, based on professional, clinical, and personal needs. These tailored mentorships offer direct clinical guidance, business support and professional development aligned with each NP's unique goals.

Eligible participants may receive up to \$10,000 to offset the costs of mentorship sessions with qualified mentors. To date, more than 30 NPs from across the province have been accepted into the program. By the conclusion of their mentorship agreements, the participating NPs will be well-positioned to establish their independent practices and deliver high-quality primary care services to Albertans.

Visit [Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/nurse-practitioner-primary-care-program.aspx)



Rural Team Recruitment Program

The Rural Team Recruitment (RTR) Program aims to address service gaps in underserved areas by improving the sustainability of rural health care and supporting locally driven solutions. Enhancing access to and strengthening primary health care services in rural and remote communities is one of the Alberta government's priority actions in the MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan.

Following the first round of funding, 29 clinics across the province received support to hire approximately 52 new full-time staff. Supported communities include Stettler, Consort, Drumheller, Crowsnest Pass, Cold Lake, Grande Cache, Peace River, Delburne, Drayton Valley, Barrhead, and Bashaw, among others.

Building on the success of the initial phase, the RTR Program launched a second round of applications, which closed on Oct. 28. This next phase offers additional opportunities to further strengthen rural primary health care by addressing ongoing workforce needs and enhancing service delivery capacity.

For more information, visit: [More primary care on the way for rural Alberta](#)



Albertans shaping a new era in health care

As part of the ongoing Alberta Health Care System Refocusing initiative, the Government of Alberta received input from Albertans and front-line workers to help shape the renewed vision for health care in the province. Engaging with Albertans is a vital part of the government's effort to address current challenges within the system.

In the latest round of public engagement, more than 2,000 Albertans shared their input. The findings were published in the Lead the Way - What We Heard report in October. The feedback builds on the insights captured during the first round of engagement that took place in 2024 which have guided the establishment of four new provincial health agencies: Primary Care Alberta, Acute Care Alberta, Assisted Living Alberta, and Recovery Alberta. Input, experiences and feedback are essential to building a more sustainable, effective and efficient health care system in Alberta.

To read the initial report, click this link: [Shape the Way – What We Heard report](#)

To read the latest report, click this link: [Lead the Way – What We Heard report](#)

Indigenous anti-racism

On March 12, 2024, we took an important step toward addressing racism and discrimination in Alberta's health system by approving the development of an Indigenous anti-racism in health care action plan. As part of building the action plan, we have engaged extensively with Indigenous communities across Alberta.

These engagements informed a draft What We Heard report, the themes and recommended actions of this report were presented on December 2, 2025, to the Indigenous Anti-Racism in Health Care working group members for validation. Feedback from the session is being applied to the What We Heard report along with its actions and recommendations to ensure its accuracy and alignment with the health needs of Indigenous peoples in Alberta.

The final What We Heard report, soon to be released, includes recommendations to address racism and discrimination experienced by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Alberta's health care system. These recommendations, along with the action plan, will guide opportunities to advance anti-racism efforts, such as culturally appropriate mental health supports, integration of traditional healing practices, improved cultural training for health care staff, and expanded translation services. These action items and efforts will advance commitments outlined in [Honouring Our Roots](#) and [The Way Forward](#).

Indigenous-led clinics

On December 3, 2025, we received Ministerial approval to begin exploring the foundational principles for Indigenous-led primary care clinics. This work advances the commitments outlined in [Honouring Our Roots](#) and [The Way Forward](#), and will guide the planning of future clinics aimed at improving access to culturally safe, respectful, and appropriate care for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit across Alberta.

Indigenous Patient Navigator Community of Practice

In May 2025, the Indigenous Health Division (IHD) launched a bi-monthly virtual Indigenous Patient Navigator Community of Practice for all Indigenous Health Division grant funded, Indigenous Patient Navigators across Alberta. The Community of Practice was established to strengthen connections between Indigenous Patient Navigators, providing opportunities for peer networking, knowledge exchange, and identify community-driven solutions to address barriers Indigenous patients experience when accessing health care services. The goal is to ensure Indigenous Patients receive continuity of care and consistent advocacy across the health care system.

The Community of Practice is expanding to include Indigenous Patient Navigators from the Four Health Pillars (Primary Care, Acute Care, Mental Health and Addictions, and Continuing Care), Alberta's health agencies (Primary Care Alberta, Acute Care Alberta, Recovery Alberta, Cancer Care Alberta and Assisted Living Alberta), Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health to foster system-wide collaboration and coordinated care networks between all Indigenous Patient Navigators to strengthen transition of care pathways for Indigenous Patients.

The most recent virtual Indigenous Patient Community of Practice took place on January 15, 2026.

The Indigenous Patient Navigators will also be participating in standardized Indigenous Patient Navigator Training to ensure consistency of practice and support role orientation. The first training session began in January 2026, with 97 Indigenous Patient Navigators attending.



In Case You Missed It

Charting the future of Primary and Preventative Health Services

Minister Adriana LaGrange officially received her new mandate letter from Premier Danielle Smith on Oct. 8. Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) will complete the health system restructuring by continuing to implement and modernize the MAPS initiative so that we can expand access to primary care, address rural staffing challenges, improve Indigenous health outcomes and enhance preventative services.

Click this link to read the full text of the PPHS mandate letter: [Primary and Preventative Health Services 2025 Mandate Letter](#).

New Advisory Councils help shape health care across Alberta

Alberta's government has launched Regional Advisory Councils as part of its health care refocus to ensure decisions reflect local priorities. These councils – 150 members from 71 communities – will advise Alberta's four health ministries and new health agencies.

For more information, visit: [Regional health councils give Albertans a voice](#)

Streamlined support for Alberta's health care system

Alberta has launched Health Shared Services (HSS) to centralize key support functions such as IT, finance, and HR, making the health system more efficient and reducing duplication. By consolidating these services, HSS allows health agencies to focus on delivering care and improving coordination. HSS supports Primary Care Alberta, Acute Care Alberta, Assisted Living Alberta, and Recovery Alberta and providers like Alberta Health Services (AHS), Covenant Health, and Lamont Health.

To read the full article click this link: [Streamlined support for Alberta health | alberta.ca](#)

New medical program launches in Grande Prairie

On Sept. 2 the first class of 30 medical students began studies at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, through a partnership with the University of Alberta. This new program is part of Alberta's \$376 million investment to expand medical education across the province.

For more information visit: [Expanding rural access to medical training](#)

Stay Connected

MAPS Dashboard Quarterly Update

Stay up to date on action item progress by visiting the [MAPS Public Dashboard](#) (most recent update - Jan. 5, 2026).

Indigenous Health Updates

The Indigenous Health Division works to remove barriers faced by First Nation, Métis, and Inuit accessing health care, while building community-specific capacity and improving both the circle of care and health outcomes for Indigenous patients.

To stay informed about health initiatives impacting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit health, sign up for the Indigenous Health Division's monthly newsletter. Each quarter, we alternate between sharing updates from the Minister and from Lisa Higgerty, our Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), so you receive important leadership insights. You'll also find a special segment from Tony Cardinal, the Indigenous Patient Safety Investigator and Advocate, along with health updates, grant opportunities, progress on key initiatives, and details on upcoming town halls.

Don't miss out—subscribe today and be part of the conversation by emailing indigenoushealth@gov.ab.ca. All ADM newsletters are available on, [Open Alberta](#) and we invite you to visit our website at www.alberta.ca/indigenous-health.

MAPS Updates

To catch up on progress on MAPS initiatives between newsletters, check out the [MAPS website](#). To connect with the MAPS team, or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, email health.MAPS@gov.ab.ca

Primary and Preventative Health Services

Minister LaGrange's newsletters can be found [here](#),

Stay tuned for the Spring 2026 issue of the MAPS Momentum Quarterly ADM newsletter.

