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# Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System: A Year in Review



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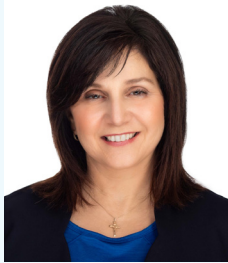
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## Message from the Minister



We are refocusing Alberta's health system and implementing a new governance model to ensure Albertans have consistent, timely access to the care they need. Our new integrated health care model focuses on delivering excellence in four areas – primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction.

As part of this refocusing work, we continue taking decisive action to transform primary health care throughout the province through the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative. The goal of MAPS is to strengthen and modernize the primary health care system, ensuring that everyone has access to a primary health care provider and timely, high-quality primary health care, no matter where they live. The initiative brought together health care leaders, Indigenous stakeholders and experts to form advisory panels that would guide modernization efforts.

The MAPS [Strategic Advisory Panel's final report](#), released in October 2023, outlined 11 recommendations that are being addressed through immediate, medium, and long-term actions. A subsequent [MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan](#) with 30 actions was developed to serve as our guidepost to strengthen primary health care in Alberta through to March 2026. The plan is part of our long-term commitment to modernize the province's primary health care system.

I'm very proud to share that one year into implementing the [MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan](#), we've made significant progress in laying the foundation for a stronger, more integrated primary health care system. Through investments in digital innovation, team-based care, workforce development and targeted efforts to improve access, especially in underserved communities, we are ensuring Albertans receive the right care at the right time, no matter where they live. From the official launch of Primary Care Alberta to the development of Regional Primary Health Care Networks and from the launch of a new compensation model for family physicians to implementation of a nurse practitioner funding model and many more achievements, we are turning our commitments into action and meaningful change.

It has been an exciting year that marks a foundational shift toward delivering more accessible, equitable, and collaborative primary health care across the province. As of the end of March 2025, the 30 actions in our implementation plan are all being addressed. There are 11 actions in the design phase and are being developed, 15 are being implemented, and four actions are complete. All of the actions are moving ahead, and I look forward to their completion.

To everyone involved in the MAPS initiative, I sincerely thank you. Together we are making improvements so primary health care will be the foundation of the entire health system. The actions we are taking will provide all Albertans with access to a primary health care provider and timely, high-quality primary health care, no matter where they live. I welcome Albertans to stay up to date on our progress by visiting the [MAPS](#) webpages.

**Adriana LaGrange**

Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

# Overview


In 2024-25, the Government of Alberta made significant strides to improve health care by establishing Primary Care Alberta, a first-of-its-kind agency in the province to focus on primary care. New health care initiatives were also launched, strong community relationships were cultivated through engagement sessions, and meaningful progress was made towards a more connected, inclusive, and patient-centered health system.

A dedicated [Indigenous Primary Health Care Implementation Plan](#) (The Way Forward) was developed towards [improving Indigenous health care](#). The plan, guided by Indigenous expertise and priorities, aims to achieve a health system that delivers culturally safe, quality care that improves life-expectancy and health and well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, their families, and communities.


Alberta has taken decisive early steps to stabilize and modernize its primary health care system, laying a strong foundation for long-term transformation.

Through strategic investments, community engagement and a focus on culturally safe inclusive care, the province is building momentum towards a more resilient and patient-centered health system for all Albertans.


## 7 KEY FOCUS AREAS




Transforming governance




Evolving patients' medical homes




Enabling the primary health care workforce




Digitally enabling primary health care



Building capacity in quality safety and innovation




Significantly investing in primary health




Addressing Indigenous Racism


## KEY HIGHLIGHTS




Primary care governance established




5 programs launched




Invested into rural and community health




Development of foundational elements



Invested \$120 million to stabilize primary health care



\$85.6 million invested in MAPS related initiatives



132 engagement sessions

## GLOSSARY


Definition of phases of progress (Status) for each action item under the Key Focus Areas	
Initiation	Defining scope, purpose and objectives, identify key stakeholders and create project charter.
Design	Development of new programs or policy, including engagement.
Implementation	Execution of deliverables, announcements or roll out of new programs.
Completion	Completion of final deliverables and/or transition to operations.
Complete	Action is completely executed.

# Key Focus Area 1: Transforming governance, strengthening and aligning accountabilities




## ACTION 1.1 Create a provincial organization and Regional Primary Health Care Networks (RPHCNs) to provide oversight and leadership to primary health care in Alberta.


### 1.1.1 Standup of the new provincial health care organization.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of Primary Care Alberta (PCA): As part of the health system refocusing, PCA has been introduced to oversee primary care services, aiming to improve coordination and accountability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Care Alberta (PCA) was legally established on Nov. 1, 2024, and became operational on Feb. 1, 2025.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Legislative reforms: The introduction of Bill 55, the <i>Health Statutes Amendment Act</i>, 2025, advances Alberta's plan to improve publicly funded health delivery and system oversight.</li> </ul>	 Completed

### 1.1.2 Design RPHCNs to plan and co-ordinate primary health care services for the population within their respective geographic boundaries.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After significant engagement across Alberta was completed, a regional model was designed that aligns with the seven geographic services areas of the health corridors resulting in seven regional networks: North-West, North-East, Edmonton, Central, Calgary, South-West and South-East regions.</li> <li>The regional networks mandate will include regional, population and unattached patient services and system support functions which include support to patient medical homes, system co-ordination and integration.</li> </ul>	 Implementation

### 1.1.3 Develop an accountability framework for achieving key performance indicators which clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectations across Primary and Preventative Health Services (formerly Alberta Health), Primary Care Alberta, RPHCNs, clinics and providers.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the accountability framework is in progress.</li> </ul>	 Design

**ACTION 1.2**  
**Develop primary health care standards that define the minimum requirements for the primary health care system.**

- 1.2.1** Define a core set of primary care services that Albertans can expect to receive.
- 1.2.2** Design team-based care standards that promote a collaborative approach to health care delivery and define effective configurations and ratios of health care professionals.
- 1.2.3** Develop primary health care access guidelines and metrics to support a consistent and achievable level of service delivery across the province.

Achievement	Status
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- The policy to inform the development of primary health care standards was completed in October 2024.
- Development of primary health care standards and the engagement plan are in progress.



**Key Focus Area 2:**  
**Evolving patients’ medical homes within an Integrated Health Neighbourhood**



- 2.1** Develop an Integrated Health Neighbourhood (IHN) Policy Framework which sets out a series of goals and objectives to seamlessly link each patient’s medical home with a broader IHN, promoting comprehensive, whole person care.

Achievement	Status
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- Development of the IHN Policy Framework is in progress.



**2.2** Expand the delivery of integrated health, community, and social services to address the needs of underserved populations.

### Achievement

### Status

- Funding of \$33 million over three years (2024-25 to 2026-27) was provided to the pediatric rehabilitation services program to increase access to community-based primary health care services across Alberta and to co-design new resources and service models to support children with complex needs.
- Funding of \$30 million was provided to four Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Alberta and initiatives are being implemented to improve access to health care and support services for people who need it most, including those in underserved communities. CHCs that received grants include:
  - CUPS Calgary Society
  - The Alex in Calgary
  - Jasper Place Wellness Centre
  - Radius Community Health & Healing
- The Injury Prevention Centre Rural Health Injury Prevention Initiative was launched, aimed at reducing preventable injuries in rural and remote areas with funding of \$600,000 over three years.<sup>1</sup>



## ACTION 2.3

**Expand programs that support patients as they transition between the medical home, specialty care and back.**

**2.3.1** Expand specialty advice services, both geographically and across surgical and medical specialties.

### Achievement

### Status

- The Provincial Specialty Access Steering Committee was established in the Summer of 2024 with the first meeting held on July 9, 2024.



**2.3.2** Continue to implement the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program.

### Achievement

### Status

- The [FAST program](#) aims to improve patients' access to the care they need by consolidating referrals in one place, ensuring all required information is included, and sending them to the appropriate surgical specialists. FAST began accepting new referrals for the following nine surgical specialties:
 

- Oral Maxillofacial	- Neurosurgery	- Orthopedic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery	- Gynecology	- Urology
- Otolaryngology	- General Surgery	- Vascular Surgery



<sup>1</sup> The Canada-Alberta agreement allocated \$109.9 million in 2024-25 to support MAPS initiatives.



**2.3.3** Implement provincial shared services that enable effective care transitions, including the Provincial Pathways Unit.

**Achievement**

- Clinical pathways are developed in collaboration with patients, primary care teams, and specialty providers from across Alberta to guide health care providers in delivering seamless, community-centred care. New clinical pathways were published on [Alberta's Pathway Hub](#) in stages.



Implementation

**Key Focus Area 3:**  
**Enabling the primary health care workforce to improve health outcomes**



**ACTION 3.1**  
**Develop a primary health care workforce strategy.**

**3.1.1** Increase available training spaces within undergraduate, residency, and physician assistant programs.


**Achievement**

- Progress was made towards increasing training spaces as follows:
  - 20 undergraduate medical seats were added in 2023-24 with 20 more in 2024-25 and the final 20 are expected in 2025-26.
  - Nine International Medical Graduate seats were added in 2024-25 with six more in 2025-26.
- The Physician Assistant Education program, which was led by the Ministry of Advanced Education, was launched at the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine on March 25, 2024.




Implementation

**3.1.2** Develop initiatives targeting the recruitment and training of additional health care professionals to work in primary health care teams, including administrative team members.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Alberta Health Workforce Oversight Committee was established in September 2024.</li><li>• An updated <a href="#">Health Workforce Strategy</a> was published on the Government of Alberta website in December 2024.</li><li>• The <a href="#">Alberta Midwifery Strategy</a> was released in February 2025 with the goal of strengthening the midwifery workforce.</li><li>• With funding of up to \$16 million over two years, the <a href="#">Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program</a> was launched to support family medicine resident physicians to set up practice in rural and remote areas of Alberta. After completing their residency, bursary recipients will commit to delivering comprehensive patient care in eligible communities for three years.</li><li>• Grant funding was provided to an academic clinic for team-based clinical teaching opportunities for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and other allied health professionals. This funding builds off the initiative to explore the feasibility of expanding access to care and Alberta’s medical training pathways in rural and remote areas of the province.</li></ul>	<div> Implementation</div>

**3.2** Develop and implement initiatives to reduce the administrative burden that physicians currently face.


Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A feasibility assessment of short and medium recommendations based on the recommendation report provided by the Supporting Comprehensive Primary Care Task Force was completed in Summer 2024.</li><li>• An initiative to reduce administrative burden is in development.</li></ul>	<div> Design</div>

# Key Focus Area 4: Building capacity in quality, safety and innovation




## ACTION 4.1 Develop more robust data and analytics platforms and infrastructure.

**4.1.1** Expand use of Health Quality Alberta (HQA) (formerly Health Quality Council of Alberta) Primary Care Panel Reports as a critical tool to enable practice-level quality improvements.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In April 2024, the <a href="#">HQA</a> shared the 2024 edition of its panel reports with approximately 2,100 health care providers across Alberta.</li> <li>Alberta Primary and Preventative Health Services and the HQA have established and implemented the strategy to expand use of panel reports and continue to collaborate to find new ways to encourage more use/uptake of these reports.</li> </ul>	 <p>Implementation</p>

**4.1.2** Develop a quality and outcomes framework that includes population-level measures and indicators related to health equity and social determinants.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A jurisdictional scan and analysis of System Quality Outcome (SQO) frameworks for primary health care from Canadian and international jurisdictions was completed.</li> <li>Work is now underway to develop a new primary health care quality and outcomes SQO framework for Albertans in collaboration with provincial partners and stakeholders from across the health care system (e.g. Primary Care Alberta, Alberta Medical Association (AMA), Primary Care Networks, etc.).</li> </ul>	 <p>Design</p>

**4.2** Establish a dedicated primary health care innovation fund (PCIF), to facilitate improvement and accelerate adoption of innovation in the Patient's Medical Home.

### Achievement

### Status

- To support the adoption and broader integration of promising innovations in primary care, the PCIF has awarded \$5 million in grants to the following projects:
  - Developing and Delivering a Comprehensive Primary Care Innovation Training Program
  - Newborn Arthritis Prevention Screening Program
  - Scaling and Spreading Community Health Navigation in Primary Care in Alberta
  - An Early Diagnosis and Care Pathway for People Living with Dementia: Primary and Secondary Care Partnership
  - Alberta Women's Post-Reproductive Health Centre



Implementation

**4.3** Establish a common patient and provider feedback platform and processes so that timely patient experience information can support ongoing learning and quality improvement across the primary health care team.

### Achievement

### Status

- [Care Opinion Canada](#) was launched by the Imagine Citizens Network on April 1, 2025. This online platform provides a place where Albertans can share their lived health care experiences to create more transparency, collaboration, and opportunity for improvement within the health care system.
- Funding in the amount of \$1.9 million was provided over three years (2023-24 to 2025-26).




Implementation


# Key Focus Area 5: Digitally enabling primary health care



**5.1** Upgrade and expand the Alberta Find a Doctor (AFAD) platform to connect Albertans with physicians and nurse practitioners.


Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">AFAD</a> grant of \$400,000 was provided to upgrade and expand the Alberta Find a doctor website.</li> <li>Nurse practitioners have been added on the AFAD website.</li> <li>A patient/provider survey has been completed, and recommendations are under review for the transition to support future delivery of AFAD.</li> </ul>	 Implementation

**5.2** Set up a program to ensure that Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems used by health care providers in Alberta meet the province’s standards for sharing health information.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic planning for a provincial EMR certification program has been completed.</li> <li>A detailed design of the EMR certification program is currently underway with the goal of establishing a formal EMR Certification office in the 2025-26 fiscal year.</li> </ul>	 Implementation

## **ACTION 5.3** Speed up the expansion of a secure “health information highway” for health care providers to easily communicate, and access and share patient information.

**5.3.1** Set up an online service for health care providers to easily create and track referrals, and for patients to check their status.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic referral submission is in development for health care providers using Connect Care and EMRs aiming for a 2025-26 launch.</li> <li>Requirements gathering for specialists to receive these referrals electronically is currently underway with development and implementation targeted for 2026-27.</li> </ul>	 Implementation

**5.3.2** Optimize the electronic delivery of test results and hospital reports from Connect Care to health care providers in the community.

**Achievement**

**Status**

- All improvements to the electronic results delivery service were completed on Jan. 27, 2025, apart from lab results which are currently in progress.
- Connect Care Access: Paramedics providing front-line care now have view only access to Connect Care, which will empower paramedics to make informed clinical decisions and improve patient outcomes during critical moments.



**5.3.3** Introduce online ordering for health care providers to request tests electronically, beginning with lab tests.

**Achievement**

**Status**

- High-level requirements for electronic lab ordering are complete, with detailed technical design underway.
- The aim is to implement a minimum viable product by late 2025-26, with a comprehensive lab eOrdering solution following in 2026-27. Strategic planning for diagnostic imaging eOrdering started in spring 2025.



**5.4** Improve patients' ability to access their health information electronically through MyHealth Records.

**Achievement**

**Status**

- Referral notifications were incorporated into MyHealth Records on Oct. 31, 2024.
- Consultations were completed with clinical and patient advisory groups regarding the release of operative procedures and investigation reports into MyHealth Records in January 2025. Changes are being incorporated based on feedback provided through these consultations prior to releasing this data in 2025-26.




# Key Focus Area 6: Significantly investing in primary health care




## ACTION 6.1 Dedicated primary care investment plan that ties defined investments to specific outcomes for people, communities, and providers.

6.1.1 Develop a funding strategy for primary health care that considers provincial and regional budget needs, including a review of the current Primary Care Network (PCN) per capita funding methodology.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the Alberta Primary and Preventative Health Services-AMA Agreement, a \$40 million investment over two years (2023-24 and 2024-25) was provided as temporary one-time funding for PCNs to address financial pressures or enhance service delivery where gaps exist.</li> <li>The funding strategy is currently being developed in alignment with regional network policy decision making.</li> </ul>	 <p>Design</p>

6.1.2 Develop a comprehensive care or new compensation model that supports sustainable team-based care.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-time funding of \$200 million over two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) to stabilize primary health care has been provided to the AMA to distribute to eligible family physicians and rural generalists. Payments to eligible practitioners have been initiated, and approximately 3,000 practitioners were eligible for the one-time payment ranging from \$24,000 to \$40,000. <sup>2</sup></li> <li>The new Primary Care Physician Compensation Model, co-developed with the AMA for family physicians, was implemented on April 1, 2025 with approximately 705 physicians eligible for enrolment.</li> </ul>	 <p>Implementation</p>

<sup>2</sup>The Canada-Alberta agreement allocated \$109.9 million in 2024-25 to support MAPS initiatives.

**6.1.3** Develop and implement a Panel Management Support Program (PMSP) to help offset costs of maintaining and growing a panel of patients.

#### Achievement

#### Status

- The [PMSP](#) was announced in October 2023, allocating \$57 million over three years (2023-24 to 2025-26) to provide family doctors and nurse practitioners with support to help manage costs related to an increasing number of patients.
- A grant was provided to the AMA for payments to physicians. Each provider has the potential to receive up to \$10,000 annually.



Completed

**6.1.4** Implement a nurse practitioner (NP) funding model to bring greater capacity into the system.

#### Achievement

#### Status

- The [Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program](#) (NPPCP) was launched on April 1, 2024, with funding of \$51 million over three years (2023-24 to 2025-26).<sup>3</sup>
  - This program expands opportunities for NPs to practise to full scope in a primary care setting while being publicly funded so Albertans have greater access to a regular primary care provider when and where they need one.
  - As of March 31, 2025, 53 NPs were operational under the model with over 21,000 patients paneled and service provision provided to approximately 32,000 Albertans.
  - The Nurse Practitioner Mentorship program aims to establish one-on-one relationships between the mentee NP and the mentor (experienced NPs or physicians), and other interested organizations based on professional, clinical, and personal requirements with a goal to provide direct support, business support, guidance and/or clinical mentorship that is specifically tailored to the needs of individual NPs.
- Work is underway to evaluate the implementation of the NPPCP, including economic and experiential evaluations, in collaboration with the Institute of Health Economics and Health Quality Alberta (formerly Health Quality Council of Alberta).



Completed

**6.1.5** Investment of stimulus funding for team-based care to enable the recruitment and deployment of non-physician staff.

#### Achievement

#### Status

Grant funding has been provided for the following projects:

- Support an academic teaching clinic in Grande Prairie to provide team-based care clinical teaching opportunities for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and other allied health professionals.
- The Rural Team Recruitment Grant and the Municipality Supported Clinics Grant were announced in November 2024.<sup>4</sup>




Implementation

<sup>3</sup> The Canada-Alberta agreement allocated \$109.9 million in 2024-25 to support MAPS initiatives.

<sup>4</sup> The Nurse Practitioner Mentorship Program has received partial funding through the Canada-Alberta agreement, which provided Alberta with \$249 million in federal funds for 2024–25 MAPS health initiatives.



**6.2** Develop a MAPS Evaluation Framework and public reporting of results, with additional investment contingent on demonstrating progress and outcomes.

Achievement	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Performance Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (PME) subcommittee and a technical working group were formed to develop the evaluation framework(s).</li><li>• The MAPS Evaluation Framework is currently being developed under guidance from the PME subcommittee.</li></ul>	

To continue following the progress of the 2-Year Implementation Plan, please access the dashboard here: [Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System \(MAPS\) | Alberta.ca](#)