Government

Alberta Health and Wellness, August 21, 2008. **Government increases emergency care capacity in Edmonton.**

The Alberta government is investing $23 million to improve access to emergency care by separating and expanding the emergency department shared by the University of Alberta Hospital and the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Alberta Health and Wellness, August 19, 2008. **Government improves access to front-line care in Calgary.**

Funding of $5.1 million by the Alberta government will support the development of an innovative community health clinic at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre in Calgary and improve access to front-line care with physicians and other health care providers working as teams to provide integrated service.

Alberta Health and Wellness, August 14, 2008. **Provincial investment expands Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.**

An additional investment of $36.5 million will support phase two construction on the cardiac care centre.

B.C. Ministry of Health Services, August 26, 2008. **Funding approved for new Revelstoke ambulance station.**

The B.C. government is investing $2 million to build a new ambulance station in Revelstoke.

B.C. Ministry of Health Services, August 21, 2008. **Contract to build patient care in southern interior.**

A construction contract for the expansion of Kelowna and Vernon Hospitals has been awarded to Infusion Health.

Office of the Premier of Ontario, August 22, 2008. **Improving access to care in the north.**

The Ontario government is expanding in-the-field training at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund is providing $3.3 million to expand local medical centres and expand internet connections to 77 communities to allow medical students to see patients in small, rural and Aboriginal communities while staying in close contact with their teachers.

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, August 28, 2008. **Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene to be divested to Penetanguishene General Hospital.**

The Ontario government has approved a plan to transfer the regional and provincial mental health programs of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene (MHCP) to the board of the Penetanguishene General Hospital. All MHCP hospital services, facilities and jobs will remain in the local communities, and all employees will remain in the same physical locations.
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, August 19, 2008. **Increasing direct daily care in long-term care homes.**

Ontario is providing $23.3 million to support the creation of 873 personal support worker positions in long-term care homes. This will increase the average paid hours of direct daily care per resident to 3.26 hours this year of nursing, personal support and programming services.

**ASSOCIATIONS**

Ontario Medical Association, August 26, 2008. **Doctor shortage threatening the economic well-being of our communities.**

In an unprecedented move, Ontario’s doctors asked municipal leaders at this year’s Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference to join in calling on the provincial government to take any measures necessary to ensure every Ontarian has access to a family doctor.

Ontario Nurses’ Association, August 26, 2008. **Registered nurse staffing cuts threaten patient care: RN positions cut in Toronto.**

ONA President Linda Haslam-Stroud, RN, reacts to the reduction of the number of registered nurses working in Toronto hospitals.

Ontario Nurses’ Association, August 14, 2008. **RN staffing reductions, service cutbacks threaten rural communities; safety of vulnerable patients at risk.**

Nursing positions in three rural Ontario communities are among those recently cut.

**NEWS SOURCES**

Calgary Herald, August 29, 2008. **Alta. hospitals, care centres still serving deli meats.**

Several Alberta hospitals and nursing homes are still serving deli meats to patients, despite recommendations from Health Canada that the elderly and people with compromised immune systems avoid cold cuts because of their risk of contracting listeriosis. Alberta hospitals and long-term care centres say they have removed the recalled products.

National Post, August 27, 2008. **B.C. hospitals, care facilities ignored warnings.**

Vancouver’s The Province has learned that B.C. hospitals and seniors’ care facilities were serving deli meats to patients despite a 2005 Health Canada warning about the listeria risk associated with these foods.

The Globe & Mail, August 20, 2008. **Accept the reality of private health care: CMA chief.**

Robert Ouellet, the new president of the Canadian Medical Association, said that the natural next step for Canada’s health system is allowing more private delivery, which will give patients more choice and better access to care.

Canwest News Service, August 26, 2008. **Ont. doctors fear policy would pit procedures against moral beliefs.**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has drafted a "Physicians and the Ontario Human Rights Code" policy that outlines a doctor’s obligations under the province’s human rights code, but critics say this policy could restrict doctors from using their moral or religious conscience in their practice. Click here to view CPSO Notification to the Profession and here to view the CPSO Policy Backgrounder.
CBC.ca, August 25, 2008. **Alberta judge allows seniors to sue province over rent hikes.**

A judge has certified a $128-million class-action lawsuit filed by seniors against the Alberta government over accommodation fees charged at long-term care homes.

Times Colonist, August 22, 2008. **Ombudsman launches probe into seniors’ care.**

The provincial ombudsman has launched an investigation of problems with seniors’ care in B.C. after receiving an influx of complaints in recent weeks.

**ARTICLES / REPORTS**

Canadian Institute for Health Information, August 19, 2008. **Length of hospital stay for those diagnosed with mental illness down 55% in five years.**

A new report shows that the average length of stay in a general hospital for a patient diagnosed with mental illness decreased by 55% over five years, from 36 days in 2000-2001 to 16 days in 2005-2006.


Includes "Fault/no fault part 2: uneasy bedfellows - Is the patient safety movement on a 'collision course' with the medical malpractice system?"

**LEGISLATION**

**Alberta**

The *Health Professions Statutes Amendment Act, 2007* was proclaimed in force effective September 1, 2008.

Alta. Reg. 133/2008, the *Consultation Regulation*, sets out the requirements for consultation for affected colleges under the *Health Professions Act*.

Alta. Reg. 134/2008, the *Consultation Regulation*, sets out the requirements for consultation for affected colleges under the *Medical Professions Act*.

Alta. Reg. 135/2008, the *Bodies of Deceased Persons Regulation* under the *Public Health Act*, establishes practices required for the handling of deceased persons’ bodies.

**Ontario**

O. Reg. 267/08 amends the *General regulation* under the *Ambulance Act*, adding a section on response time performance plans.

O. Reg. 268/08 makes amendments to the *General regulation* under the *Ambulance Act*, including changes to section 12 on the transportation of the remains of a dead person.

O. Reg. 264/08 under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* makes amendments to the *General regulation*, including changes related to the conditions for payment of a dispensing fee; and prescribed conditions for purposes of sections 11.1 and 11.2 of the Act, related to orders suspending an operator’s or physician’s right to payment.mortality.
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REGIONAL CONTACTS

National Chair
Joshua Liswood
416.595.8525
jliswood@millerthomson.com

Edmonton
Brian Curial
780.429.9788
bcurial@millerthomson.com

Vancouver
David Martin
604.643.1229
dmartin@millerthomson.com

Toronto/Markham
Kathryn Frelick
416.595.2979
kfrelick@millerthomson.com

Calgary
Ivan Bernardo
403.298.2425
iberanardo@millerthomson.com

Montréal
André Dugas
514.871.5410
adugas@millerthomson.com

Southwestern Ontario
Glenn F. Jones
519.931.3508
gjones@millerthomson.com

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