



ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION
*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-North West*

AR 67608

{Date}

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2024

Mr. Tyler Gandam
President
Alberta Municipalities
300, 8616 - 51 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T6E 6E6

Dear Tyler Gandam:

Thank you for your letter regarding Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) Resolution 2023-B10, Expand Capacity to Train Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists (CLXTs) for Rural Alberta. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I agree with ABmunis that Albertans deserve access to healthcare when and where they need it. Through Budget 2023, Alberta's government continues to invest in the Alberta at Work initiative to further develop a highly skilled workforce, attract talent to the province, and encourage all Albertans to participate in the labour market.

Advanced Education plays a key role in Alberta at Work, particularly through the Targeted Enrolment Expansion program. This program is increasing capacity in high-demand areas such as the one mentioned in Resolution 2023-B10. I am pleased to share that the province recently funded an increase of over 3,900 seats in healthcare programs. This includes new seats in critical healthcare professions such as nurses, medical laboratory professionals, paramedics, and health care aides.

While Advanced Education provides strategic guidance and direction to Alberta's post-secondary system, specific programming decisions are the responsibility of each institution's board of governors. Advanced Education recently provided \$54 million under Budget 2023 to fund 2,548 new post-secondary seats, including 1,445 seats in healthcare. The ministry continues to communicate the importance of Alberta's post-secondary institutions being responsive and agile to meet workforce and community needs.

Page 1 of 2

The Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) resource works with rural communities to strengthen their health workforce and encourage better access to healthcare. Your organization may wish to connect with RhPAP to explore funding opportunities to address the current shortage of CLXTs in rural Alberta. RhPAP may be reached by phone at 780-423-9911 or by email at info@rhpap.ca.

Thank you again for sharing this ABmunis resolution with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sawhney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, ECA
Minister of Advanced Education