



October 18, 2021

Honourable Jason Copping
Minister Health
Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Copping:

As noted in my September 27, 2021 letter, AUMA members passed a resolution at our 2020 Convention entitled [Integration of Nurse Practitioners into the Alberta Healthcare System](#). AUMA would like to thank Alberta Health for the efforts made to date that are intended to increase the number of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) working in all areas of the Province and to better integrate NPs into Alberta's healthcare system. We note that legislative changes have been made to expand the authority of NPs in a few areas (e.g. in nursing homes, advising paramedics, completing driver's licence medical exams, etc.) and that Phase 2 of the Primary Care Network Nurse Practitioner Support Program was funded with the goal of hiring 25 additional NPs. AUMA would be interested in an update on the hiring of the 25 NPs, if there is any information that you can provide at this time.

Additionally, AUMA encourages Alberta Health to engage more directly with stakeholders, like AUMA and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta, to identify further legislative changes and funding approaches that will ensure that the expertise of NPs is available to as many Albertans as possible, most importantly in locations where access to physician care is limited.

Another important factor in ensuring that Albertans can access healthcare in locations where the number of physicians, NPs, or both, may be limited is the availability of quality broadband to support the provision of telehealth services. While these services may not be suitable for delivering certain types of healthcare services, they can fill some gaps, especially with respect to initial consultations, periodic follow up appointments, prescription refills, etc. AUMA recommends that Alberta Health collaborate with Service Alberta in the completion of the Provincial Broadband Strategy to ensure that it highlights the benefits to the healthcare system of consistent equitable broadband being available across Alberta.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or phone at (780) 868-5103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Angela Duncan
AUMA Interim President

Cc: Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta