



April 19, 2016

Re: CTV News Story: Alberta Health Services managers accused of squandering sick days' (April 18, 2016)

Your recent news story about sick leave for AHS non-union employees does not accurately reflect the situation at AHS. It would appear your reporter focused on the anomalies, not the norm.

On average, AHS' non-union employees report 6.5 sick days a year. A five-year comparison shows AHS' sick hours are either at, or lower than, other western provincial health care authorities. We are also lower than the national Statistics Canada average of seven sick days for non-union employees.

AHS has 8,500 non-union employees. Many of them are in frontline roles, such as intensive care unit managers, mental health clinic professionals, food service supervisors, clinical practice leads, and nurse practitioners. Manager roles account for 38 per cent of our non-union employees.

For clarity, the actual number of non-union employees who took the full allowance of paid sick leave was 56 out of the total 8,500 people. The majority of this group (64 per cent) went on to long term disability (LTD) due to very serious health issues.

Our union and non-union employees are the heroes of our health care system – they make our work possible. In turn, we work hard to ensure our people are healthy and ready to provide safe, quality care for all Albertans. We are proud of the measures we have in place to support them when they are ill or injured.

Sincerely,

Dr. Verna Yiu

Interim President and CEO

Alberta Health Services