



*This Issue: Celebrating Award Recipients; National Physicians' Day; AHS Policies During a Provincial Election Campaign; Red Dress Day; Webinars; Career Opportunities; News from the AHS Update and more.*

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*We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 & Treaty 8 and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta and eight Metis Settlements. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.*

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*Note: Recognizing some medical staff use an alternate email address instead of an AHS email address, some information is duplicated from the AHS Update to ensure all AHS medical staff have all up-to-date organizational information that may impact their practice.*

## **Topics:**

### **Medical Affairs News**

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- National Physicians' Day – thank you!
- AHS policies during a provincial election campaign
- Red Dress Day
- Physicians can report clinical adverse events using RLS
- Diversity & Inclusion May webinars
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- Review changes to the Microsoft Authenticator app

- Report clinical adverse events using RLS
  - Special Practice Wise session on nursing's perfect storm
  - Today is Clean Your Hands Day
  - Celebrating our 2023 CMA Award recipients
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## Medical Affairs News

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### Celebrating our 2023 CMA Award recipients

Congratulations to AHS physicians Dr. Esther Tailfeathers and Dr. Franco Rizzuti on receiving 2023 Canadian Medical Association (CMA) awards!



Dr. Tailfeathers, Senior Medical Director, Indigenous Wellness Core, was awarded the F.N.G. Starr Award. This award is the highest CMA award available to its members and recognizes outstanding and inspiring lifetime achievement.

“This award isn’t about one person,” said Dr. Tailfeathers. “This is for all those making a difference in Indigenous health.”

Dr. Rizzuti, Medical Officer of Health, Provincial Population & Public Health, received the CMA Award for Young Leaders (Early Career) in recognition of his exemplary creativity, initiative and commitment to making a difference at the local, provincial/territorial or national level.

“I am incredibly humbled and honoured to have been nominated by my colleagues and recognized by the CMA,” said Dr. Rizzuti. “An award such as this recognizes the team as much as the recipient, and I have had the privilege of being part of amazing teams over the years, including many within AHS.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Tailfeathers and Dr. Rizzuti on their outstanding contributions to the medical profession and to healthcare in Alberta. Learn more about these awards on the [CMA website](#).

Learn more about Dr. Tailfeathers' work supporting and educating families affected by the overdose epidemic in Alberta's Kainai First Nation in the powerful film [Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy](#).

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### **National Physicians' Day – thank you!**

National Physicians' Day was earlier this week, and we hope you found some time to take a moment to celebrate and recognize your colleagues throughout the province.

Physicians have a tremendous impact on people's lives. We thank you for the difference you make in our hospitals, care centres, clinics and homes are the result of your tireless work, exceptional commitment to their patients, and an unmatched generosity of spirit.

Watch Dr. Francois Belanger and Dr. Sharron Spicer's National Physicians' Day video message [here](#).

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### **AHS policies during a provincial election campaign**

As the province is now in a provincial election campaign, it is important to have awareness of protocols for AHS leaders, staff and physicians contracted with AHS during this time. AHS has policies in place for guidance during an election, and we encourage you to read the following resources to learn more:

- Government of Alberta [Election Communication Policy](#): AHS follows the provincial government's which helps guide us as to what we can and cannot do during a provincial election campaign.
- AHS [Conflict of Interest Bylaw](#).
- AHS Conflict of Interest Bylaw [Political Activity Frequently Asked Questions](#) (internal resource, login required).
- AHS Ethics and Compliance guidance on [Political Activity](#) (internal resource, login required).
- [AHS' communication policy](#): Includes guidance on how individuals can participate in political events if they choose outside of work in a personal capacity.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your leader, or your communication advisor.

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### **Red Dress Day**

Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5.

Red dresses are hung from windows and trees nationwide to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors. Some people choose to wear red on this day or wear a red dress pin.

- [Order your AHS button](#) in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)
  - Wear red on May 5 to acknowledge the MMIWG movement
  - Hang a red dress in your office or in your front window at home
  - Take part in [local events in your community](#)
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### Physicians can report clinical adverse events using RLS

In order to identify patient safety problems and make improvements, it is important to report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events (CAEs).

AHS has a single, province-wide system for patient safety reporting called the [Reporting & Learning System for Patient Safety](#) (RLS).

All physicians have a responsibility to report patient safety events. When you report a CAE, close call, or hazard through RLS, the submission is reviewed, trended and shared to help us learn as an organization. Reporting helps to identify patient safety problems and to make improvements.

We encourage you to consistently submit CAEs and other patient safety problems using [RLS, available on Insite](#).

Please note, RLS is intended for reporting incidents related to patient safety and should not be used for concerns related to professionalism of another physician. If a physician has a professionalism concern about a colleague, they should discuss this with their medical leader. There is a Safe Disclosure Line physicians can reach out to for support at 1-800-661-9675 or by emailing [complianceofficer@ahs.ca](mailto:complianceofficer@ahs.ca).

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### Diversity & Inclusion May webinars

The Diversity & Inclusion team will be hosting live sessions every Wednesday in May. Join over the noon hour for live webinars of topics that are usually only available by request.

Register for any of the webinars below on Microsoft Teams:

- **ABCs of Inclusive Decision Making:** May 10 | [Register](#)
  - **Cultural Safety vs. Cultural Competency:** May 17 | [Register](#)
  - **Allyship:** May 24 | [Register](#)
  - **Inclusive Language and Communications:** May 31 | [Register](#)
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### CMA fireside chats on Indigenous health

Change starts with open conversation. This spring, CMA President Dr. Alika Lafontaine is leading a series of intimate discussions with Indigenous patients, providers and leaders on how we can move forward, together, on reconciliation.

Register for the following sessions [here](#):

- **The importance of cultural safety in health care—for patients and providers:** May 10, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
  - **Improving the health of Indigenous Peoples:** May 24, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
  - **The meaning and importance of an apology to Indigenous Peoples:** June 12, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
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### **Sexual assault awareness month – Zoom sessions**

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and the Office of Faculty Development and Performance, Cumming School of Medicine is inviting you to join them for live and online interactive, information-rich lunch hour Zoom sessions.

Session information and registration details will be [posted online](#) on a regular basis, so check back often for updates.

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### **Support for physicians**

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer CONFIDENTIAL services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the 24-hour assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

AHS also has resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are available online:

- [Webinar](#)
  - [Resource Guide](#)
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### **Career opportunities**

Practice opportunities across a broad range of specialties are available. All vacant AHS physician practice opportunities are posted on our physician recruitment website, [Doctor Jobs Alberta](#).

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### **Additional resources for physicians:**

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)

- [MD News Digest](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)

## From the AHS Update

You can read the [full version online](#).

## Latest News

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### **Drayton Valley wildfire leads to hospital evacuation**

A big thank you to AHS teams provincewide that have been mobilized in response to wildfires in Alberta. ([more...](#))

## Action on Our Priorities

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We are working to urgently address four key priorities. They are:

- Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to address our priorities.

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### **Reducing wait times for surgeries**

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:

### **Digital Health Evolution and Innovation**

[Connect Care Launch 6 to involve more than 200 sites](#)

### **Rural & Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement**

[Indigenous Support Line launches in South Zone](#)

## Your Wellness

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## Take care of your physical and mental well-being

Learn more about creating safe and healthy work environments, and supporting our mental well-being. [\(more...\)](#)

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### Mental Wellness Moment — mental health awareness



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell discusses how talking about your mental health is beneficial. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

## More News

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### COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

Latest hospitalizations, ICU update and information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. [\(more...\)](#)

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### CEO video message – more on Connect Care Launch 6



On the AHS Vlog, three guests discuss the sixth launch of Connect Care, scheduled for early tomorrow morning. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

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### Review changes to the Microsoft Authenticator app



The approve/deny pop-up in the Microsoft Authenticator App will be replaced with a number-matching prompt to improve security. [\(more...\)](#)

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### **Report clinical adverse events using RLS**

To identify patient safety problems and make improvements, report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events using [RLS](#). [\(more...\)](#)

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### **Special Practice Wise session on nursing's perfect storm**

On May 11 at noon, Dr. Sandra Davidson, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, will discuss practices to help nursing in current times. [\(more...\)](#)

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### **Today is Clean Your Hands Day**

Thank you for taking the time to clean your hands this year. Hand hygiene compliance continues to exceed the AHS target of 90 per cent. [\(more...\)](#)

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### **Celebrating our 2023 CMA Award recipients**

Congratulations to AHS physicians Dr. Esther Tailfeathers and Dr. Franco Rizzuti on receiving a 2023 Canadian Medical Association Award. [\(more...\)](#)

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This weekend AHS is managing a wildfire response affecting multiple AHS zones and provincial portfolios, requiring a total and coordinated group effort. We're also in the sixth launch of Connect Care, planned for the early hours of Saturday. I wish to pass along my gratitude for everyone involved in these two events, both of which are urgent and complex in their own way. Please know AHS will do everything possible to support you this weekend and beyond, and please reach out for help if you need it from colleagues, from your supervisor or from the resources listed earlier in this Update. We will get through this — as we always do, together.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

### **Dr. Francois Belanger**

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer