



ALBERTA

*Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
MLA, Edmonton - Glenora*

Ministers' Message to Staff – Fort McMurray Fire

Yesterday's devastating wildfire that hit Fort McMurray displaced tens of thousands of Albertans, some of whom lost everything. All of our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had to flee their homes. As a province, we are holding our breath as emergency workers continue to fight the flames and hope for some relief in this terrible battle.

As always, our priority is to ensure patients, clients and staff are safe. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have been working on this issue – whether it is on the front lines providing essential health services, or ensuring that the infrastructure and support is in place to support our fellow Albertans.

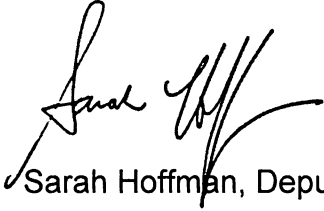
On behalf of Premier Notley and all of government, we would like to acknowledge the staff of Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services who helped to ensure all patients from the Northern Lights Hospital were evacuated quickly and safely. In all, 105 patients were evacuated in just two hours. These were circumstances more difficult than anyone would have imagined, and staff showed incredible dedication, bravery and selflessness in ensuring the safety of patients, even as many feared for their own homes and families.

We also want to acknowledge Dr. Verna Yiu's leadership as AHS's CEO. This morning she participated in an official update from our Premier at the Provincial Operations Centre. Her calm, measured approach reflects the professionalism and expertise in our frontline response, and this is exactly what Albertans need to feel reassured.

We know even more of you will be become involved in providing and support and services over the coming days – either through the Alberta Health Emergency Operations Centre, or through the Government of Alberta's Provincial Operations Centre.

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There will be new challenges and much uncertainty in the days to come, but we are confident that we are all prepared to work above and beyond to support all of those people affected by the fires. Thank you for your dedication and for your efforts in the days ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Hoffman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Payne". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Brandy Payne, Associate Minister of Health