

From the CMO

July 9, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

I am honoured to write my first column as Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Alberta (PCA).

My clinical career began in Alberta's rural locum program, where I had the privilege of working from Milk River to High Level, Jasper to Provost - as well as the Northwest Territories. Those experiences exposed me to the remarkable diversity of Alberta's people, communities, cultures and approaches to care. More importantly, they reinforced the profound impact that strong primary care relationships can have on patients and families.

More recently my focus has been on urgent care for inner city populations, deepening my understanding of barriers and challenges many Albertans face when navigating the healthcare system. My work in leadership has always centred on primary care, as a Department Head for Family Medicine, a leader for Community Health and the Calgary Zone Primary Care Network committee, and most recently as Associate CMO in PCA.

As I step into this new role, I want to thank Dr. Greyvenstein for the strong foundation he built. His commitment to curiosity, transparency, and engagement has helped establish a culture that will continue to guide our work.

The PCA coalition

Primary care is fundamental to a thriving, patient-centred and sustainable health care system, and yet has been challenged in the past by not having a dedicated organization to champion its role and priorities. That challenge has been solved through PCA. With our public health teams, virtual care providers, Indigenous Wellness Core, Health Link, frontline primary care clinics across the province, and our connections with Primary Care Networks, we represent a coalition of individuals who affect the care of every Albertan, from pre-conception to end of life.

The CMO office will continue to hold true to our organization's mission, vision and values as we focus on the evolution of Primary Care Networks, team-based care, system integration, referral management, Indigenous MAPS priorities (Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System), and screening. I am committed to working closely with our Chief Nursing Officer, operational leaders, healthcare partners, and frontline teams to model the team-based approach that is essential to the future of primary care. Across Alberta, we are already seeing inspiring examples of what this can achieve, and I believe there is much we can learn from one another.



Change is rarely easy, but by communicating openly and keeping Albertans at the centre of our work, we can shape a stronger primary care system together. I am confident that, in the years ahead, we will look back on this period as a defining milestone in the evolution of primary care in Alberta.

Kind regards,

Dr. Mike Spady
Chief Medical Officer
Primary Care Alberta