



**ALBERTA OMBUDSMAN**  
*Focused on Fairness*

July 20, 2009

**Ombudsman receives response to *Prescription for Fairness***

Edmonton . . . Alberta Ombudsman G.B. (Gord) Button has received the response of the Minister of Health and Wellness to his report *Prescription for Fairness*.

Late last year the Ombudsman launched an investigation into the fairness of the administrative processes used by the Out-of-Country Health Services Committee and Appeal Panel to review applications for funding from Albertans.

In May of this year, the Ombudsman made 53 recommendations which are contained in *Prescription for Fairness*. The recommendations aim to improve the quality and fairness of out-of-country funding decisions.

The Ombudsman is pleased with the very positive response of the Minister. The majority of the recommendations were either accepted or are accepted in principle. Some recommendations will require amendments to the *Out-of-Country Health Services Regulation*, and the Ombudsman is requesting the Minister pursue those amendments expediently. The Ombudsman has committed to actively monitor the implementation of those recommendations and has requested an update by September 3, 2009.

The Ombudsman is expecting a full response from the Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel to his recommendation that four cases specified in the report be re-heard. The Appeal Panel will be meeting July 29, 2009 to review this recommendation. A response is expected in early August.

The Ombudsman's report *Prescription for Fairness* can be viewed at [www.ombudsman.ab.ca](http://www.ombudsman.ab.ca) by clicking on "what's new."

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