



ALBERTA OMBUDSMAN
Focused on Fairness

September 9, 2009

Ombudsman receives update to recommendations made in *Prescription for Fairness*

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

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. Thirty-six of the recommendations have been implemented by either the Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel or the Out-of-Country Health Services Committee. The Minister of Health and Wellness has committed to spearheading the regulatory changes that were recommended. It is anticipated the regulatory review process will be completed in the spring of 2010. The Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel has accepted the recommendation to re-hear four appeals and has undertaken to advise the Ombudsman as soon as re-hearing dates have been scheduled. The recommendations for training are scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2009. Timeframes have been set for implementation of the remaining recommendations.

The Ombudsman will continue to actively monitor the progress in implementing these recommendations. The status of these recommendations will be updated in three months.

The Ombudsman's report *Prescription for Fairness* can be viewed at www.ombudsman.ab.ca by clicking on "what's new."

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:
Glen Resler
Director Corporate Services
Alberta Ombudsman
780-427-2756

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.