ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA
COLLÈGE ROYAL
DES MÉDECINS ET CHIRURGIENS DU CANADA

December 9, 2025

The Honourable Danielle Smith MLA
Premier of Alberta
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6

Email: premier@gov.ab.ca

Cc: The Honourable Matt Jones MLA, Minister of Hospital and Surgical Health Services; The Honourable Adriana LaGrange MLA, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services; The Honourable Mickey Amery MLA, Minister of Justice

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, I am reaching out to request a meeting with you or your team to discuss Bills 9 and 13 and the anticipated impacts to patient care in Alberta.

Safe, high quality patient care is the priority of everyone working in the health system. Safe, high quality patient care requires competent physicians. The scope and required training and knowledge for competent specialist physicians is determined and assessed by the Royal College and medical regulatory authorities. A competent specialist physician requires an understanding of cultural competency, unconscious bias, and equity, diversity and inclusion to provide individualized care to patients. These requirements are not issues of ideology; rather, they are matters of professional competence that can be linked directly to patient outcomes. Moreover, physicians are trained to assess the individual needs of patients and physicians must retain the autonomy to guide discussions with patients and their families toward safe and optimal care.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider both Bill 9 and Bill 13 which will compromise patient care:

- Bill 9 would impose political perspectives on the physician-patient relationship and restrict patients' access to necessary medical care in Alberta. Qualified medical professionals, including specialist physicians, are best equipped to analyze medical

evidence and offer individualized recommendations for specialized medical care in partnership with patients and their families.

- Bill 13 would prevent regulatory authorities from requiring training essential to providing safe, high quality patient care. Physician competency requires cultural competency, and this must be maintained throughout the learning continuum from training to continuing professional development.

We implore you to reconsider Bills 9 and 13 and would like to suggest a meeting to discuss the impacts to patient care. Additionally, we strongly encourage the government to make decisions about healthcare delivery in collaboration with physicians and physician organizations in Alberta. Physicians are best equipped to provide input into health policy.

Sincerely,



Chris Watling MD FRCPC MMEd PhD
CEO, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada