

Mandate

The Health Committee monitors, responds to, initiates debate and proposes changes with respect to health care and health related issues and works to lead and serve the business community of Calgary by acting as the voice for the business community. The Chamber's Health Committee has sponsored initiatives that include the need to build healthy workplaces, and major reforms to Alberta's health care system. With aging populations soon to create even more pressure on health care resources across the country, this committee is dedicated to forward-looking ideas on the management of electronic health records, and data privacy and security, as well as solutions to the critical shortage of health care workers in a burgeoning economy.

2007 – 2008 Committee Focus Areas

- Healthy Workplaces Return on Investment
- Economics of Wellness
- Access/ Productivity and Competitiveness

Summary of Previous Year's Work

The committee took great interest in systemic change to Alberta's current health care system, citing concerns about the access to and productivity of the system. Discussions of these issues took up a large part of the committee season and led to *Renewal of Alberta's Health Care System*, a resolution adopted by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. This resolution alerted the government to the business community's concerns regarding timely access to care, the fiscal sustainability of the current system, and labour shortages in the health care field. The committee also produced a resolution entitled *Building Healthy Workplaces*, which advised the government to research and communicate the benefits of healthy workplace policies to Alberta's business community.

In addition to the regular meetings, the committee also hosted two special guests: former Alberta Health Minister Dave Hancock and the President of the Canadian Medical Association Dr. Brian Day. The Committee was responsible for securing Dr. Day for a successful keynote event.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 2007	Dr. Mohammad Nanji, CEO, Calgary Surgical Centres Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private delivery in Alberta's Legislative environment
January 2008	Laurie Blakeman, Liberal Party Health Care Critic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Liberal vision for health care
January 2008	The Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Health & Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta 's health care system and health care premiums
March 2008	Dr. J. Ferrence, Board Chair for the Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Ray Block, President and CEO of the AMHB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The function and operation of the Alberta Mental Health Board
March 2008	Dr. Brian Day, President of the Canadian Medical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient focused funding and other ideas for change
May 2008	Sharon E. Johnson, Alberta Medical Association's Assistant Executive Director; Dr. June Bergman Lead physician, Calgary Foothills PCN; Dr. John Coppola, Lead physician, Calgary West Central PCN; Dr. Nick Myers Provincial Primary Care Initiative Committee and Deputy Regional Clinical Department Head of Family Medicine, Primary Care, Calgary Health Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care Networks