

ALBERTA HEALTH CARE

Extra funding for surgeries is good, but . . .

Dedicated doctors

Over the last several months, there have been some bleak stories about Alberta's health-care system, and no one is denying it can be improved.

As a resident physician, I have been intimately involved on the front lines of health-care delivery for the last four years.

Like all resident physicians, I have graduated with my medical degree and am pursuing further intensive training in a medical field of expertise — training that can take between two and seven years; in my case ophthalmology.

During my residency, I've had the opportunity to learn from some extraordinary doctors; I am confident in saying that Alberta has amazing physicians whose passion for medicine is inspiring.

As well, I find myself training along side some exceptional resident physicians. These individuals are genuinely dedicated to their patients and fascinated by the revolutionary speed at which medicine is changing.

Alberta's resident physicians are dedicated to patient care; they work an average of 74 hours per week and work on-call shifts that can last more

than 26 hours. Yet, members of this group still find time to be involved in the community.

With this insight into the foundation and the future of health care in the province, it is difficult to despair.

There are some incredible doctors who are prepared to assist in meeting the challenges of health-care delivery and they are more than ready to make a difference.

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