



Edmonton  
Zone Medical  
Staff Association

PHYSICIANS ADVOCATING FOR HEALTH

December 8, 2023

Dear Members,

As we embark on the holiday season, I want to acknowledge the turmoil physicians are feeling. There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty with what the future will bring, and it is adding to the dismay, hopelessness, and frustration that we already feel. Our primary care colleagues continue to be asked to work harder for less pay, all while being seemingly devalued by the government. Many are asking themselves why they stay and are moving to other places to escape the seeming war being waged on them by these policies. Our hospital colleagues are spreading themselves thin, looking after too many patients in hallways and stretchers while the hospitals are bursting at the seams. Capacity has been an issue for years, and I cannot help but feel that while conservative areas continue to get new hospitals and buildings, the Edmonton zone continues to be “forgotten” when it comes to building meaningful capacity. By the time a new hospital is built here, we will likely have outgrown it. I am continually impressed that we keep showing up, for our patients and each other. We are incredibly resilient people who carry the burden of their patients’ issues in an environment of too few resources with such grace. Along with our allied health colleagues, it often feels like we are literally holding the walls of our health care system up with our bare hands.

I do think there is cause for hope. Although many feel the restructuring plan of the health care system is ill-conceived, there may be opportunity for positive change. I will endeavour to look for all avenues for advocacy for the medical staff. While the government builds silos, we need to find ways to stick together. This holiday season, check in with your colleagues and socialize where you can. The Annual General Meeting just passed and I am proud to say our guests who attended raised \$1000 for Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS), while having a fun night of food and drink with our colleagues. The EZMSA also gave YESS \$2500 for their charity.

The EZMSA has some exciting new events planned this year and I hope to see more of you at them. Let us keep in touch and please reach out if you have issues or need help.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Mona (Manpreet) Gill  
Acting President 2023

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**Mission:** Physicians Advocating for Health

**Vision:** Engaged Physicians; Sustainable Healthcare; Health Community

**Values:** Advocacy; Integrity; Growth and Learning; Community Connection

**To contact the EZMSA Physician Advisor:** <https://albertazmsa.com/physician-advisor>