

Dear Colleagues,

We are all shaken up by the horrible event in Red Deer. It does not seem to stop. One event after another is adding up. Even the most resilient of us are getting pretty down about all that is happening. I certainly am and I know you all wish for better times.

I am so appalled by the behavior of our government and health minister. Is there a time that physician agreements need to be reviewed? For sure, but not during a pandemic. Is there a time when negotiations get tough? For sure, but not during a pandemic. Is there a time legislation needs to be reviewed how health care is delivered? For sure, but not during a pandemic! Could there be a time to disclose physicians billings? I am not so sure, but not during a pandemic! Is there a time to review AHS Medical Staff Bylaws? For sure, but not during a pandemic.

Physicians have said that they understand fiscal realities. The pandemic alone has put most of us into a much more difficult fiscal reality. Overhead continues while this government does not seem to care about how we can pay our bills. We all care about the wellbeing of our patients. Systemic system flaws are barriers for patient care and wait times are horrible. Why does this government and the health minister continuing to beat on us and our patients?

I have taken part in many Zoom meetings with AMA and the Joint Task Force. People are so incredibly fed up and the concept of job action creeps up all the time, but we will not.....during a pandemic!

On top of a pandemic and the consistent government attacks, our community is grieving the loss of Dr. Walter Reynolds in Red Deer. My sympathies go to the family and staff at the Village Mall Walk-in Clinic. I hope they receive much support during this difficult time. The events that took place on Monday have shaken many of us. What happened is tragic and we are all considering our personal safety in clinic. We are all feeling grief.

The Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association will be providing a donation on behalf of members to the [Walter Reynolds Memorial Fund](#). Funds raised by this campaign will solely be used by Anelia, Dr. Reynold's wife, to pay for travel expenses for her and Walter's close family from South Africa, funeral expenses, and his two young daughters' education.

Vigils are places to come together and grieve as a community. The events of Monday have hit many of us very hard. We are coming together to show support for Dr. Reynolds, his family, colleagues, patients, and the wider Alberta community. We grieve with them. Below are details of a vigil for the Edmonton community. Thank you to Mayor Don Iveson and the City of Edmonton for their quick response to provide us with a place to meet and waiving the event license fee.

Outdoor Silent Candlelight Vigil for Dr. Reynolds

Friday, August 14, 2020

7-8pm

Edmonton City Hall – Outside, near the Main Entrance

1 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Bring flame-less candles only. Alternatively, you may download an app for your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#).

Physician colleagues are asked to wear white (lab coat, t-shirt, sweater, etc...)

Public Health guidelines currently state a maximum of 200 people may gather outdoors for audience-type community events. We will take count for the first 200 people to have admission for the vigil.

Thank you for understanding we must follow public health orders.

Please remember the following:

- If you have any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, and/or had close contact with a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, you must stay home.
- If you develop symptoms during the event, you must leave the event and inform us to then inform the City of Edmonton.
- Maintain a 2 meter distance between people who are not from the same family or cohort at all times.
- Wear a mask.
- Consider bringing hand sanitizer of 60% alcohol content or higher.
- [Stay up to date with COVID-19 developments.](#)
- Consider downloading [ABTraceTogether](#) to help let us know if there has been a COVID-19 exposure.

Additional Resources

If you require additional resources during this difficult time, please see these links for the [AMA Physician and Family Support Program](#), [AHS infographic on grief](#), and [AHS wellness](#).

Please continue to follow our progress on:

Twitter @EZMSA2

<https://www.facebook.com/EZMSA2/>

<http://albertazmsa.com/ezmsa>

Regards and take care,

Dr. Ernie Schuster, President