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New Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee

Edmonton, AB: A new Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee has been formed by the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association in response to the troubling rise in COVID-19 cases, decrease in public trust in the Alberta Government, and need for Albertans to receive evidence-based information endorsed by the medical community.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs Dr. James Talbot and Dr. Noel Gibney will lead the Committee. Dr. Talbot was the former Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Government of Alberta from 2012 to 2015. Dr. Gibney is a highly respected intensive care physician and Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta. The Committee brings together the medical specialties most affected by COVID-19; public health, intensive care, emergency medicine, family medicine, laboratory medicine, infectious diseases, and general internal medicine to provide the comprehensive expertise needed to respond to this pandemic.

Purpose and Mandate

With over 1,500 daily cases and exponential growth reported for the province, frequent circulation of dangerously incorrect information, and 59% of Albertans stating they are not satisfied with the measures put in place to fight COVID-19 by the Alberta government (338 Canada poll last week) medical leadership is required. The purpose of the Committee is to consider all factors and evidence in providing Albertans with medical advice, which is impartial, objective and not influenced by partisan politics or personal conflicts. The Committee will consider all medical evidence, the determinants of health, and societal implications related to the pandemic, not only the direct effects of COVID-19, for their recommendations.

The Committee will fulfil the following responsibilities for a COVID-19 response on behalf of the Edmonton zone medical community:

- 1) Monitor public health, the health system, and the government response in Alberta.
- 2) Research and recommend medical guidance.
- 3) Provide public information and medical advice to Albertans.

About EZMSA: The EZMSA represents 1,700 doctors for local issues in the Edmonton Zone.

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