



# United Nurses of Alberta

July 23, 2018

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Honourable Sarah Hoffman  
Minister of Health  
423 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Hoffman;

The staffing crisis at Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Department is getting worse.

Despite assurances from Alberta Health Services last week that the situation would be resolved "in the coming days," United Nurses of Alberta has been informed that UNA members at the emergency department worked 231.43 hours of overtime between July 20 and 22, 2018.

AHS representatives told the media last week that they planned to post vacancies for 15 new part-time relief positions at the Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Department. One week later, we have now been informed that AHS only intends to post 8 new positions with an equivalent of 6.0 FTE.

UNA has also been provided with the new rotation schedule which shows a *reduction of 7.4 FTE positions* than the previous rotation schedule at the Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Department.

Wasting funds on overtime is bad fiscal management, ignoring the concerns of nurses and the union is bad labour relations, but misinforming the public questions the integrity of the local management to manage the public health care system.

UNA has been attempting to resolve this staffing crisis in Red Deer for more than two years. We had no choice but to bring the issue to the attention of the public to resolve both patient safety concerns our members have and the workplace stress chronic understaffing is causing.

I am requesting a meeting between you and UNA representatives at your earliest convenience to discuss a solution to the staffing crisis. UNA believes that the worsening situation requires the immediate intervention from the Minister of Health on behalf of patients, staff and residents of central Alberta.

Sincerely,

David Harrigan  
Director of Labour Relations, United Nurses of Alberta