



Alternatives North

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Government of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

30 March 2026

Dear Ms. Michel:

Re: Alberta's *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (no. 2)*

Alternatives North is a social justice coalition operating in the Northwest Territories. We have had a long-term interest in protecting and strengthening our public health care system. Due to the lack of medical specialists and the provision of particularly challenging medical treatments in the north, many of our residents must access health care in Alberta through agreements between the provincial government and Government of the Northwest Territories.

The recent passage of *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (no. 2)* by the Government of Alberta is an undisguised attack on public health care in Canada. It is also an open and direct contravention of the principles underlying the *Canada Health Act*, especially the principle of accessibility. As such, it is incumbent upon you, as the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Canada Health Act*, to take such actions within your power to deal with this breach of the law. An obvious mechanism available to you to discourage Alberta from undercutting our national public health care system lies in the financial supports the federal government provides to provinces and territories for the delivery of public health care. Since the Government of Alberta has chosen to contravene the *Canada Health Act* it should not benefit from the financial supports available to provincial and territorial public in the same way as providers who are in compliance with the law.

In our opinion you are bound to withhold further transfers that support the Government of Alberta health services until they rescind a law so clearly designed to facilitate the introduction of two-tiered health care, a threat to the wellbeing of all Canadians. In our respectful opinion, you have no choice. Please do your duty.

Sincerely,

Ben McDonald
For Alternatives North

c. Rebecca Alty, MP Western Arctic