



ALBERTA
COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION
OF
CHIROPRACTORS

November 13, 2020

Premier Jason Kenney
307 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney:

On behalf of Council and members of the Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors (ACAC), I would like to offer our appreciation for the Alberta government's COVID-19 response.

We are writing to share with you our concerns regarding renewed calls for a provincial shutdown of businesses, offices, clinics, and other services in response to rising case counts.

We urge you to respect what hundreds of Albertans have been telling us since the spring shutdown – chiropractic care is an essential element of their health care needs and should not be part of any future closures related to the pandemic.

When chiropractic clinics were shuttered, Albertans' health suffered. Musculoskeletal conditions, including back and neck pain, are among the most prevalent and costliest of chronic conditions, and are among the leading causes for emergency room visits and lost time from work.

Patient needs did not go away during the closure period and we heard from Albertans nearly daily about the negative impact the shutdowns had on them and their pain management. This was especially acute among those Albertans that were newly working or studying from home, as they did not necessarily have the same equipment and appropriate set-up at home, exacerbating neck and back pain issues.

The ACAC exists to protect the public and advocate for chiropractic care. As part of that duty, we developed and implemented a robust [Pandemic Practice Directive](#) prior to the initial spring re-opening of clinics that included patient screening, environment cleaning and disinfection, hygiene, physical distancing and PPE protocols. We are pleased to report that Alberta's chiropractors have continued these practices and received commendations from both OHS and public health officials for our efforts to keep Albertans safe while providing needed chiropractic health care services.

As the call for shutdowns increase, we ask that chiropractic clinics be allowed to remain open and not limited to emergency or urgent cases only. Chiropractors have shown that they can provide safe and effective care in our new reality and support the health, wellness, and safety of Albertans. If you, or your staff, have questions about why chiropractic should remain open during any future shutdown situation, please contact our CEO, Sheila Steger at 780.420.0932 or via email at ssteger@albertachiro.com.

In health,

Dr. Brad Kane
Chair, Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors

cc: Hon. Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health
Hon. Tracy Allard, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Ms. Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister, Health
Mr. Paul Wynnyk, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Mr. Dean Screpnek, ADM, Health Standards, Quality and Performance Division and
Acting ADM, Health Workforce Planning and Accountability Division
Mr. Shane Schreiber, Managing Director, Alberta Emergency Management Agency