

Many Canadians are finding that the health care they have relied on, is no longer reliable. At the root of this crisis is staff shortages and burnout. Without healthcare workers, access is limited, wait times increase, and the quality of care suffers.

Better Way Alberta proposed solutions (see [report](#) for full details)

1. *Limited access* due to the ripple effect of strains to other parts of the system. Current government has funneled more than \$250 million to for-profit contractors over two years. Recent research in BC and SK found that private delivery only temporarily adds to the volume of service because it contributes to workforce shortages in public hospitals. The Better Way is a commitment to developing, coordinating, and sustaining public sector wait-time solutions. Commitment to better utilize the existing capacity in the public system by improving quality and efficiency.
2. *The Healthcare workforce is struggling.* There is a spike in demand, lack of investment, emphasis on efficiency over preparedness and poor working conditions causing a spike in vacant positions. Three-quarters of health care workers reported increased workload due to pandemic measure and short staffing. Seven in ten healthcare workers reported worsening mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. This current government continues to pursue its agenda to bring in private services and to rely on staffing agencies to fill the holes. The Better Way is to pursue a provincial health workforce strategy and to collaborate on a national plan to improve working conditions, recruitment, and retention of healthcare workers. Support of burnout and trauma.
3. *Health care in rural communities.* Physicians have been driven out of Alberta. Pressures are amplified in smaller communities, from April 2020 to July 2022 – 49 communities outside of Edmonton and Calgary lost at least 159 doctors. The loss of physician capacity has had a significant impact, especially on obstetrical services. The Better Way is investing in Canadian health workforce strategy, identify the areas of greatest need and inform recruitment and retention of healthcare workers. Rethink physician support and compensation.
4. *Seniors Care.* LTC and home care were operating on a minimal basis at the onset of the pandemic. Band-Aid-like solutions for system cracks. The obvious solutions have yet to be implemented. The Better Way is increasing staffing levels and improving working conditions of seniors care staff.
5. *Smarting Spending Can Save the System.* Midwifery, Harm reduction, Pharmacare and universal dental care.