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Local 196 SPOTLIGHT



Health Care and the Question of Separation

What would actually happen to public services—particularly health care—if Alberta’s relationship with Canada fundamentally changed?

Health care in Canada isn’t a single program—it’s a tightly connected system built over decades. Any major constitutional change or separation from Canada would immediately raise serious questions about how health care would continue to be funded, delivered, and protected.

At the centre of the current system is the Canada Health Act, which establishes national principles meant to ensure medically necessary hospital and physician care is publicly funded and universally accessible. Provinces administer health care, but federal health transfers help stabilize budgets and support consistent access across the country.

If Alberta were no longer part of Canada, one of the most immediate and complex questions would be: what would replace those federal transfers? Health care is one of the largest areas of provincial spending.



Even modest changes to funding structures would have significant impacts on staffing, service delivery, and system capacity. For patients, this is not an abstract policy issue.

Recent public discussion and media reporting have raised the possibility of a provincial referendum on Alberta’s constitutional future. Canada’s publicly funded and universally accessible health care model depends on shared standards, national funding mechanisms, and coordinated systems.

Staying within Canada means maintaining those structures—structures that help protect access to care regardless of income, geography, or circumstance.

It is about whether care remains reliable, timely, and accessible when it is needed most.

STRONGER TOGETHER: WHY ALBERTA'S HEALTH CARE IS STRONGER IN CANADA

Staying in Canada protects the public health care we all count on.



STABLE FUNDING THAT MATTERS

Federal health transfers provide billions of dollars to Alberta every year, helping fund hospitals, clinics, mental health services, and long-term care.



SUPPORTING OUR HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

National agreements allow nurses, doctors and other health professionals to move across provinces, helping Alberta recruit and retain the health care staff we need.



MEDICATIONS & SUPPLIES WE CAN COUNT ON

Canada's national systems for drug approval, pricing and purchasing help keep medications and medical supplies safe, affordable and available.



PROTECTED BY THE CANADA HEALTH ACT

National standards make sure medically necessary hospital and physician care is publicly funded and accessible to all—no matter where you live or how much money you have.



STRONGER TOGETHER, BETTER FOR ALBERTA

Being part of Canada means shared knowledge, coordinated standards, and collective problem-solving on the big health care challenges we all face.



STABILITY FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Health care is built on long-term planning. Stability protects access, supports communities and helps ensure care is there when you need it.



OUR HEALTH. OUR FUTURE.
ALBERTA IS STRONGER IN CANADA.

Public health care is one of our greatest achievements. Let's protect it—for ourselves, our families, and the generations to come.



Stronger together.
Better care for all.



Staying in Canada protects what matters most: universal, publicly funded health care for all Albertans.



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