



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

SELECT SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION ACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 28, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Committee seeks public input on review of Health Information Act (HIA)

Edmonton- "Should personal health information contained in employee health files be a part of the scope of the Health Information Act (HIA)?"

"Is the process for obtaining access to records appropriate?"

"Should the Act be amended to include stronger provisions to protect the confidentiality of genetic information?"

These are just a few of the questions being asked as a part of the review by an Alberta Legislative Assembly all-party committee of the HIA.

"It has been three years since this piece of legislation was enacted," said Broyce Jacobs, MLA and Chair of the Select Special Health Information Act (HIA) Review Committee. "We need to determine the present and future effectiveness of the Act and its supporting policies."

He further explained that the intent is to actively consult with Albertans as the committee reviews the implications of the Act and considers the impact of electronic health records on the HIA.

"It is critical that we find an appropriate balance between protecting the privacy of the individual and allowing reasonable access needed to provide health services," said Jacobs.

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The committee is currently seeking feedback from the public on a consultation guide that has been developed as part of the review process. The guide, along with other information about the Health Information Act and review process, can be found on the Review Committee's website at www.hiareview.assembly.ab.ca, or by calling (780) 427-1350 (call toll free by dialing 310-0000).

Deadline for written submissions is August 6, 2004.

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Contact:

Broyce Jacobs, MLA (Committee spokesperson)
Chair, Select Special Health Information Act Review Committee
Legislature Office
#713 Legislature Annex, 9718-107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4
Phone: (780) 415 9408
Fax: (780) 427-1320

Or

For general information about the Committee
Karen Sawchuk, Legislative Assembly of Alberta
Committee Clerk, Select Special Health Information Act Review Committee
Phone: (780) 427-1350