

Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel

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February 28, 2018

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship
c/o Committee Clerk
3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E7

Re: Review of the Conflicts of Interest Act – Invitation to Make a Written Submission

Dear Mr. Rod Loyola, Chair, Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship,

Thank you for your letter inviting the Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel (Appeal Panel) to contribute to the review of the *Conflicts of Interest Act* being led by the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship.

The Appeal Panel is a steward of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan and aims to ensure that Albertans have appropriate access to insured health services, aligned with the Alberta standard of care and medical evidence, even if services are not available in Alberta or Canada. The Appeal Panel is an independent panel that operates at arm's length from the Out-of-Country Health Services Committee (Committee) and the Ministry of Health and considers appeals from Albertans regarding decisions made by the Committee under the Out-of-Country Health Services Regulation to fund insured medical, oral surgical, and/or hospital services that are not available in Canada.

On January 2, 2018 the Appeal Panel received a letter from the Office of the Ethics Commissioner informing us of the recent changes to the *Conflict of Interest Act* and our mandate to update our Code of Conduct and submit it to their office for review and approval. We are currently working on the update and we will be submitting our Code of Conduct to the Ethics Commissioner by Monday, April 30, 2018 to comply with these changes. With that the Appeal Panel does not have any feedback to contribute to the review of the Act at this time but we appreciate your consideration and inclusion. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ms. Jamie Pytel
Chair, Out-of-Country Health Services Appeal Panel