



10 March 2023

Heather Jeffrey
President
Canada Public Health Agency of Canada
130 Colonnade Rd
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9
heather.jeffrey@hc-sc.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Jeffrey:

I am writing you today to draw your attention to the "zero draft"¹ document which will be discussed at the 76th WHO World Health Assembly from 21-30 May 2023. As the representatives of 170, 000 working people in Alberta, we are excited to see so many positive elements, such as:

- The importance of decent work,
- The importance of investment in the health and care workforce.

Workers in Alberta are under tremendous stress and pressure and facing no end in sight. This is especially true for our health care workers who have increased levels of burnout and mental health challenges.

A focus on strengthening human resources is an important discussion to be had, especially around remuneration and retention of a health care workforce. Canada desperately needs a strategic health human resource plan.

As the solemn anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic approaches us this week, we are pleading with PHAC to take a stronger approach and to address proper staffing which will help keep the public and workers safe.

We are reaching out to you to do more for workers and their families, to ensure that public health is part of workplace health, and to do what is possible to invest in the health workforce. Please let us know if you are willing to meet to discuss the date of Alberta's workplaces in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil McGowan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil McGowan
President
Alberta Federation of Labour

cc: Honourable Mary Ng
mary.ng@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca

¹ https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf_files/inb4/A_INB4_3-en.pdf

