

March 23, 2009

Registration services for Alberta health care insurance expand

Edmonton... Beginning April 1, Albertans will be able to register for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan or update their information at 20 different registry agent offices across the province. The service will be provided at no cost to Albertans.

“With one stop, new Albertans can apply for health care coverage at the same time they register a vehicle and apply for an Alberta driver’s license,” said Dr. Raj Sherman, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Wellness. “With 20 locations across the province, this will provide far better access to these services for people moving to locations such as Fort McMurray or Brooks.”

The Alberta government eliminated health care premiums January 1, saving Albertans and Alberta businesses about \$1 billion annually. This saved families who paid premiums \$1,056/year. Although premiums have been eliminated, Albertans still need to register with the health care insurance plan.

Registry agents will process application forms and Alberta Health and Wellness will mail the health care card directly to the applicants. The registry agents do not have access to personal health information.

“This is a great way to improve service delivery for Albertans,” said Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Service Alberta. “Previously, there was an office in downtown Calgary and another in downtown Edmonton where people could get these services. Now there will be 20 and perhaps even more in the months ahead.”

The project will include 20 registry agents in locations throughout the province to start, and after six months, the project will be reviewed and consideration given to expanding the service to other registry agents in Alberta.

Residents of the province can also update their existing coverage information at the registry agents including changes to their name, address, marital status and adding or removing coverage for dependants. Albertans who have already registered for health care coverage do not need to re-apply.

The Alberta Health and Wellness offices in downtown Edmonton and Calgary will close March 31.

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Backgrounder List of registry agents providing health care registration services.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Kathleen Range
Communications
Alberta Health and Wellness
780-427-7164

Cam Traynor
Communications
Service Alberta
780-415-6051

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.