

Minister's report on mission to Europe

Health Minister, Honourable Fred Horne's mission to Europe – meetings with health system leaders and participation in European Health Summit, January 22–30, 2013

Overview

Minister Horne represented Alberta in meetings with health system leaders in England and Ireland and participated as a keynote speaker at the annual Nuffield Trust European Health summit involving 20 countries. Participation in the European Summit was of particular relevance given the topic of primary care this year which is a priority area of policy focus in Alberta.

Mission objectives

The following objectives were successfully met during the mission:

1. Meet with health policy leaders in the UK involved in the assessment of access, quality and value for money in the national health system. Identify programs and practices which might be of relevance to adoption in Alberta.
2. Share plans on Alberta's primary care reforms with key European experts and receive feedback on how to maximize their potential for improved outcomes for the Alberta population.
3. Meet with political and health executive leaders with the Health Service Executive in Ireland (an example of a single health authority structure) to identify lessons for consideration in the evolution of the Alberta health system.

Results

The Minister met with the Kings Fund, a prestigious independent charitable organization that works to improve health care in the UK by providing research and health policy analysis. The Minister reviewed the approach used by the organization to analyze and present information on health system sustainability. Briefing was held with Chris Ham, CEO; John Appleby, Chief Economist and Candace Imison, Deputy Director of Policy. Opportunities to use expenditure forecasting techniques and other policy tools were discussed.

The Minister also met with RAND Europe Council of Advisors. RAND is an independent not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to help improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. This included Ellen Nolte, Director of Health Policy; Micheal Rich, CEO, Rand; Sir Boyd, Chair of China House; Lord Nigel Crisp, former CEO of the NHS. Alberta potential with the single health authority platform to collaborate in research partnerships with European partners was discussed.

The Minister met with the current Health Service Executive in Ireland- CEO Tony O'Brien his Executive Team and the Honourable James Reilly, Minister of Health. The Minister also met with the former Minister of Health Mary Harney and the former CEO of the Health Service Executive Dr. Brendan Drumm.

The implementation of the single health authority in Ireland and lessons learned were discussed.

The Minister participated in a site visit and meetings with the staff at the Palmerstown/Ballfermot Primary Care Centre (an integrated mental health and primary care facility).

The Minister met with the Health Information and Quality Authority, Board Chair, Pt McGath, and CEO, Tracy Cooper (also Chair of the International Society on Health Care Quality). Legislative structure and reporting relationships of the Irish organization were presented and discussed.

The Minister then attended the Nuffield Trust Primary Care Summit. This involved 20 countries and Alberta was able to present our plans in the keynote opening address. The Summit examined the changing scope and role of primary care in different European health systems, identified the essential characteristics of primary care to ensure it is fit for the future; explored case studies from European countries debated about the ways in which effective reform of primary care delivery and organization might be accelerated (including policy, institutional, financial and managerial mechanisms). Meetings were held with officials and leaders from the WHO, OECD, European Observatory on Health Systems, European Forum on Primary Care, Swedish Forum for Health Policy, Kings Fund, Nuffield Trust, as well as leaders from France, Spain, Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and the UK.

Delegation

Honourable Fred Horne, Minister of Health

John Sproule, Executive Director, Policy and Stakeholder Relations

International Travel Final Expenses

Expenditures by Participants	Amount
Travel (includes airfare, airport service fees, ground transportation costs, including taxis, car rentals, parking, trains, buses as well as mileage to/from airport or taxis to/from airport in Alberta, including any cancellation fees)	\$ 7,519.36
Accommodation (room charges and related taxes, including any cancellation fees)	\$ 1,993.46
Meals (includes restaurant bills and tips, meals on hotel bills, per diem meal claims, share of group meals or working sessions)	\$ 601.30
Incidental and Miscellaneous (includes cell phone rental charges, incremental costs for all electronic devices such as roaming charges for cell phones, iPads and costs associated with communications such as the costs incurred for media call-backs, conference/registration fees, including cancellation fees, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and inoculation fees, laundry and dry cleaning, baggage handling, out-of-country per diems, and other sundry expenditures)	\$ 285.02
Sub-Total	\$ 10,399.14
General Mission Expenditures	Amount
Receptions and Hosting (receptions, luncheons, dinners, and events that are hosted by the GoA that are specific to the mission and include meeting related costs for room rental, room rental for hosted events, food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, entertainment, flowers)	\$ 185.12
Incidental and Miscellaneous (includes translation of documents fees, publications, shipping charges, gifts purchased specifically for mission, Canadian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate charges for services provided to the GoA)	\$ 0.00
Sub-Total	\$ 185.12
Total Costs	\$ 10,584.26

News release :

[Health Minister to meet with European health care leaders](#) (January 17, 2013)