

April 29, 2010

Fay Orr appointed Mental Health Patient Advocate

Edmonton ... Fay Orr has been appointed as Alberta's new Mental Health Patient Advocate, effective immediately. Orr replaces Sandra Harrison, who has served as the province's Mental Health Patient Advocate since 2006 and is retiring.

Orr has been the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services since March 2008 and was previously the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture; Community Development; and Government Services. She also served as Managing Director of the Public Affairs Bureau and Communications Director for the Office of the Premier.

"I am very pleased to welcome Fay Orr to her new role," said Minister of Health and Wellness Gene Zwozdesky. "Fay is a highly respected and extremely capable individual with a wealth of knowledge. I know that Albertans will be well served by her in this capacity."

"I also want to sincerely thank Sandra Harrison for her work in helping Albertans with mental illness," Zwozdesky added. "She helped ensure that patients' voices were heard and respected. She also ensured they received support and advocated for their needs."

The Mental Health Patient Advocate assists Albertans with mental illness and their families: by providing information about and helping them to exercise their rights under the *Mental Health Act*; by investigating and helping to resolve complaints, which may include making recommendations; and by educating others about patients' rights. The Advocate reports annually to the Minister of Health and Wellness.

The Alberta government has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. An important part of *The Way Forward* is maintaining support for programs and services Albertans need most, such as health care, education and safe and vibrant communities. For more information on the plan visit Alberta.ca.

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