

February 24, 2019

Dr. Verna Yiu  
President & CEO  
Alberta Health Services  
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Delivered by email: ahs.corp@ahs.ca

Dr. Yiu,

It has come to our attention that the Alberta New Democrats (“the NDP”) held a clearly partisan event on an Alberta Health Services (AHS) property on Saturday, February 23, 2019. The media event in question appears to have taken place in the atrium of Lethbridge’s Chinook Regional Hospital (“the hospital”). Photographic evidence is attached.

The podium sign and accompanying banners clearly contain partisan NDP slogans: “Rachel Notley: Fighting for You” is an NDP campaign slogan. It seems apparent that this was not a Government of Alberta event being done in the NDP Leader’s role as Premier.

I note that (AHS) policy on political events on AHS properties is quite clear:

“AHS facilities shall not be used for any political activity, including, but not limited to use for the purposes of canvassing, campaigning, making political announcements, touring and other activities. During an election campaign, political parties are not permitted to use AHS facilities as a backdrop or host location for any campaign event or activity...Elected officials may access AHS facilities for the purpose of carrying out their duties to elected office provided they do not engage in any political activity...” ([AHS Policy on Political Activity, #1148](#))

We are not alleging that AHS corporate leadership granted approval for such a partisan event to be held on AHS property. Quite the contrary: we respect AHS’ determination to remain non-partisan. However, it seems plausible that a decision was made by AHS officials at a local level to violate AHS policy.

It is essential that Albertans have faith in their primary healthcare provider. AHS' status as a non-partisan, unbiased entity is critical to maintaining that faith. Alberta is on the eve of a hotly-contested election – *many would argue the campaign is already well underway* – and it is especially important that AHS is not perceived as engaging in partisan activities.

As such, I write to you to ask for a clear explanation as to how such a blatant, egregious ethical lapse occurred on AHS property.

Please note that I have also written to Ms. Marguerite Trussler, Q.C., Alberta's Ethics Commissioner, to inquire as to whether a breach of the Code of Conduct for employees serving in the offices of the Premier and Cabinet Ministers may have occurred.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Nixon', written in a cursive style.

Jason Nixon  
United Conservative candidate  
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

Enclosure: Appendix

**Appendix**

Global Lethbridge Reporter Chris Chacon tweet from hospital atrium



**Chris Chacon**  
@ChrisAChacon

Follow



Alberta Premier @RachelNotley speaking in response to @jkenney proposed freeze on healthcare spending. @globalnews @GlobalLeth



2:51 PM - 23 Feb 2019

Premier Notley partisan tweet (since deleted)



**Rachel Notley** ✓  
@RachelNotley



Great to visit Chinook Regional Hospital today.

Mr. Kenney wants to cut & privatize our health care system.

In Lethbridge, that would mean firing 203 nurses.

Nurses who wouldn't be there when you need them.

I will always keep fighting to protect and improve health care in Alberta



Enlarged photo from Premier Notley's tweet



*NDP campaign banner comparison (varying colour theme)*



*'Fighting for You' slogan used in NDP campaign visuals*

A campaign graphic for Chris Nielsen. The background is split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right, with orange on the left and blue on the right. On the left side, the name "Chris Nielsen" is written in large white bold font. Below it, "for Edmonton-Decore" is written in a smaller white font. Further down, the slogan "Fighting for you" is displayed in white, with "Fighting for" in a standard font and "you" in a larger, bold font. At the bottom left, the "Rachel NOTLEY" logo is shown, featuring a stylized house icon with a tree and the name "Rachel NOTLEY" in white. On the right side, a portrait of Chris Nielsen, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and striped tie, is shown smiling. He has a small gold pin on his lapel.

**Chris Nielsen**  
for Edmonton-Decore

**Fighting for you**

**Rachel NOTLEY**