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Consulting firm hired for analysis of health care insurance

Report to show if expanded role for private health insurance viable

Edmonton... Alberta Health and Wellness has awarded Aon Consulting Inc. the contract to review Alberta's health care system and propose alternative ways to fund health services.

Aon Consulting will examine options for health care insurance in the areas of prescription drugs, continuing care, supplemental health products and services and non-emergency health care. The project will cost up to \$1.5 million to complete. Aon Consulting will submit its final report in spring 2006.

"The Third Way direction in health renewal means looking for how best to fund, manage and improve Alberta's health care system," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness. "This extensive analysis will provide new insight into how private and public health insurance could work together in practice, and give Albertans the best value for their health dollars."

Aon Consulting Inc. in Canada, is the consulting arm of Aon Corporation, and provides consultation services on human resource and risk management issues, and specialty insurance underwriting. The company was chosen from three proposals submitted to Alberta Health and Wellness in September.

Alberta's Third Way plan for health renewal calls for a review of how private, supplementary health insurance might play a role in funding accessible, high quality health care in Alberta. The mix of public funding and private insurance in countries with leading health care systems was also one of the themes examined at the International Health Care Symposium in May 2005.

The Alberta Health and Wellness Request For Proposal which Aon responded to is publicly available at www.health.gov.ab.ca.

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