

June 1, 2006

Evans to learn new innovative approaches from Swiss and Swedish health systems

Edmonton... Health and Wellness Minister Iris Evans will travel to Switzerland and Sweden this month to study their health systems and meet with government and health officials.

Evans will arrive in Switzerland on June 11 along with a study group, at the invitation and expense of the Swiss government. Accompanying Evans will be members of Capital Health, the Calgary Health Region, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, and Alberta Health and Wellness department officials.

The group will discuss important health issues such as health system governance, accountability and financing, wellness, workforce, innovative ways to deliver care, and pharmaceutical policy. Following three days of meetings, Evans will take a tour of a Swiss health facility.

On June 16, Evans and her executive assistant will travel from Switzerland to Sweden, where she will meet with a number of government and health care officials including researchers from the Karolinska Institute, whose research accounts for 40 per cent of all the academic medical research carried out in Sweden.

"This trip presents a wonderful opportunity for us to explore the challenges we share, but more importantly, it will give us the valuable experience of learning from the innovative approaches that these countries have taken towards finding solutions," said Evans.

Evans will return to Edmonton on June 21.

The total cost of the trip for the minister and her executive assistant, excluding the Switzerland-hosted portion, is estimated at \$9800 including airfare, meals and accommodation.

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Backgrounder: Minister Evans' itinerary.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000

Backgrounder

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General Itinerary for Minister Evans:

June 11, 2006	Arrive in Berne, Switzerland
June 12, 2006	Meetings: Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
June 13, 2006	Meetings: Canton Vaud Office of Public Health
June 14, 2006	Meet with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helsana Insurance Company • Economie Suisse
June 15, 2006	Tour of Health Facility
June 16, 2006	Travel to Stockholm, Sweden
June 19, 2006	Meet with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ylva Johansson, Minister of Health • National Board of Health and Welfare • Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care • Matteus Health Care Centre
June 20, 2006	Meet with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation of Swedish County Councils • Stockholm County Council • Stockholm County Chair of Health Care • Professor Erling Norrby, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences • Karolinska Institute Researchers
June 21, 2006	Return to Edmonton

Note:

This itinerary is tentative and subject to change.

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