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# **R**EPORT **T**O **A**LBERTANS

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## **Deputy Minister's Rationale for Approval of Contracts under the *Health Care Protection Act***

**Surgical Service:**      **Ophthalmology Surgical  
Services**

**Region:**                      **Capital Health**

**Effective Date:**          **April 1, 2006**

## **Deputy Minister's Message:**

I am pleased to present my rationale for approving an amending agreement for insured ophthalmology surgical services under the *Health Care Protection Act* (HCPA).

Assessment and approval was completed by a department proposal assessment team and my own examination.

Albertans can be confident that the amended agreement meets all legislated and regulatory requirements, and protects the public delivery of insured health services.

*Paddy Meade  
Deputy Minister  
Alberta Health and Wellness*

## **Executive Summary:**

**Proposal:** Capital Health Region has submitted a proposal to amend an existing agreement with:

Operator: Dr. Royce L.C. Johnson  
Facility: Royce L.C. Johnson Professional Corporation  
Service: Insured Ophthalmology Surgical Services (non-cataract)

The facility is accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. The scope of work in amended agreement involves surgical procedures specific to the provision of medically necessary and insured services under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

This contract expires March 31, 2008

The facility has a sufficient number of qualified and appropriately trained staff to manage the volume of work. There is no negative impact on the health workforce available to service the needs of the Capital Health Region. The physician has proven qualifications and experience in the provision of these surgical services. Physicians must be part of the region's medical staff and hold privileges; as such they are subject to the region's medical staff bylaws. Mechanisms are also in place to monitor physicians' compliance with the *Medical Professions Act*.

**Assessment Summary:** Alberta Health and Wellness conducted its due diligence in reviewing the proposal as per the *Health Care Protection Act* and according to the established Ministry Criteria for *Health Care Protection Act* agreements. The proposal meets those criteria and responds effectively to the region's responsibility for ensuring timely access to ophthalmology surgical services. The proposal also adheres to provincial and federal legislation.

**Compliance:** The provider has had an agreement with Capital Health Authority since 2000, for the provision of these services. I am satisfied that the proposal from Capital Health provides a public benefit, and shows no adverse impact on our public health system, or our ability to comply with the *Canada Health Act*.

**Public Benefit:** The contract between Capital Health and Royce L.C. Johnson Professional Corporation improves access to ophthalmology surgical procedures. The public health system benefits by providing increased operating room time in the public sector. This is important as it allows the major centers in the Capital Health Region to concentrate on other services to better serve the needs of Albertans.