



May 17, 2024

Dear Members,

This Sunday, May 19, is [World Family Doctor Day](#), an event that celebrates the impact family doctors have on the lives of patients around the world. I want to offer my deepest thanks to all of you for the work you do to care for your patients and to keep our beleaguered health care system running. I know it often feels like a thankless task – but I also know that without you our system would cease to function.

No one can do what family doctors do. You not only provide essential care to patients and their families, but you also build relationships that span lifetimes and often generations. Your patients trust you because you know them, their families, their health and their history, and you care for them at every age and stage of life. This day recognizes and honours the uniqueness of that relationship and what it makes possible.

If you're looking for inspiration, take a moment to visit the Alberta College of Family Physicians' website to check out their [Family Docs Rock](#) activities. The video messages from colleagues explaining why they love being a family doctor are a good reminder of why many of us chose family medicine and why this work is still so rewarding.

This year's World Family Doctor Day is being celebrated under the theme "Healthy Planet, Healthy People," highlighting the connection between the health of the planet and the health of patients. It feels like a particularly relevant theme for those of us living in Alberta, which experienced multiple wildfire evacuations in recent days. To all of you who are affected by these wildfires, please know we are thinking of you, your families and your patients in this difficult time.

Thank you for all that you do – each and every day.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Bates, Acting President

Section of Family Medicine

On behalf of your [SFM Executive](#)



Mission

- Advocate fiercely for Family Medicine.
- Collaborate to drive health system improvement.
- Achieve compensation that reflects the essential role of family physicians in the health of Albertans.

Vision

Alberta's family doctors are well-supported and financially equipped to provide accessible, quality team-based health care.



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