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PRESS RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO

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A GREATER PROPORTION OF ALBERTANS  
THINK CHANGES TO THE WAY HEALTH REGIONS  
ARE GOVERNED WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT  
ON THEIR HEALTHCARE.

A GREATER PROPORTION OF ALBERTANS  
SUPPORT THE CHANGES INITIATED BY THE HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS MINISTER.

A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF ALBERTANS  
REPORT THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH  
INFORMATION TO JUDGE WHAT IMPACT  
THE CHANGE WILL HAVE, OR WHETHER  
THEY SUPPORT THE CHANGE OR NOT.

## Albertans' perceptions on the change in healthcare governance

Using a telephone survey, 900 Albertans were asked what the impact will be of the new governing body created to oversee health care in Alberta. While more Albertans think the changes will have a positive impact (35%) compared to a negative impact (22%), the results also indicate that there is a significant proportion of Albertans who answered "don't know" (25%).

The Alberta government recently announced that one provincial governing body, the Alberta Health Services Board, will be created to oversee health care in Alberta... In your opinion, what impact will this change have on healthcare for Albertans?	Albertans n=900 (a)	Calgary CMA n=300 (b)	Edmonton CMA n=287 (c)	Other Regions n=313 (d)
It will have a positive impact	35%	30%	36%	40% (b)
It will have no impact	18%	21%	18%	14%
It will have a negative impact	22%	24%	22%	21%
Don't know	25%	25%	25%	26%

*The letter next to the percentage point indicates a statistically significant difference with the percentage found in the column indicated by the letter (i.e. 40% is statistically different from 30%).*

There is one significant difference in the data between Other Regions and Calgary, where there is a 10% difference in the proportion of people who believe there will be a positive impact from the change in governance. This result is somewhat surprising given the anecdotal evidence and media reports that suggest rural regions are more concerned about the Board change since many are far removed geographically from the new Board, which will be based in Edmonton.

Other noteworthy significant differences are as follows:

- People aged 35-44 are more likely to expect a positive impact as a result of the change, with 41% expecting a positive impact, compared to only 28% of those in the 45-54 category.
- Younger Albertans, those who are 18-34 are more likely to say "don't know" (30%), if compared to those 55 years of age or older (21%).
- Those with a higher income (\$75,000 or higher) are more likely to see a positive impact come out from this change in governance, compared to those with a lower income (less than \$50,000).

Albertans were also asked if they support the change initiated by the Health and Wellness Minister, the Honourable Ron Liepert. Here too, a greater proportion of Albertans support the change in governance, but nearly one-third of Albertans reported they “don’t know.”

And do you support the change initiated by the Health and Wellness Minister, the Honourable Ron Liepert?	Albertans n=900 (a)	Calgary CMA n=300 (b)	Edmonton CMA n=287 (c)	Other Regions n=313 (d)
Yes	44%	37%	44%	51% (b)
No	27%	31%	24%	25%
Don't know	29%	32%	32%	24%

*The letter next to the percentage point indicates a statistically significant difference with the percentage found in the column indicated by the letter (i.e. 51% is statistically different from 37%).*

As with the impact question, younger respondents are more likely to answer “don’t know”, while those in higher income brackets are and those from Other Regions are more like to support the new governance model.

Methodology:

This Leger Marketing opinion poll was conducted by telephone among 900 randomly selected Albertans aged 18 and over, from May 16 to 22, 2008. The sampling margin of error for a sample of this size is ± 3.3%, 19 times out of 20 of what they would have been had the entire adult Alberta population been polled. The margin of error for the urban centres is ± 5.7%, while the one for Other Regions is ± 5.5%.

For more information, please contact:

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