



## **Resolution No. 09 – 04**

### **Mandatory Reporting of Gunshot and Stab Wounds**

WHEREAS: Alberta Health Information Act was proclaimed in law in 2001. The Act establishes a comprehensive legislative scheme for dealing with health information so that mechanisms are in place to protect the privacy of individual's health information; and

WHEREAS: Alberta In recent years there have been several attempts by law enforcement agencies to have access to disclosure of personal information by the Health Authorities concerning injuries, death of persons involved in a criminal act; and

WHEREAS: In recent years in the Province of Alberta there has been a proliferation of gang activity and associated violent crimes pertaining to use of weapons, in particular guns and knives. Under present legislative conditions law enforcement agencies are at an investigative disadvantage if faced with gang violence in which a gang member or affiliate is injured or killed by another. Typically police have no knowledge of the incident due to hospital staff being restricted to the interpretations of the Health Information Act, therefore do not contact police to disclose personal information, as it compromises their employment; and

WHEREAS: The Minister of Justice in the Province of Alberta has recently requested a review of existing legislation as a key component in continuing efforts to disrupt and dismantle organized crime and gang violence in Alberta; and

WHEREAS: The Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security plans to introduce "stand alone" legislation requiring the mandatory reporting of gunshot and stab wounds. Presently draft "stand alone" legislation is with the Legislative Review Committee awaiting further policy review;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police calls upon the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security in the Province of Alberta to continue supporting and moving the proposed legislation through "Legislative Review Committee" and the "Standing Policy Committee" for proclamation in the Spring or Fall 2009 session of the Legislative Assembly.