

Lesser Slave Lake

2019-20 Annual Report



Lesser Slave Lake
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.

Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

Alberta Health Services values Advisory Council members as volunteers, leaders and partners in health care planning. With every year that passes, I see how our Councils continue to grow and expand. They challenge us and ask really great questions, they share the AHS story with their communities, their families and neighbours – helping Albertans everywhere to better understand our complex health care system – and they advise AHS on our planning, programs and services.



Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn

We had a number of long-time members leaving Councils in 2019-20 and we would like to acknowledge their hard work, dedication and passion. While we will miss them, we also know it's important for new voices to join the conversation and we look forward to building new partnerships, relationships and connections.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn,
Vice Chair, Board of Directors; Chair, AHS Community Engagement Committee of the Board

Message from the Chair, Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council

With this year being the first for myself as Chair and Susan Giesbrecht as Vice Chair, we have been finding our footing with the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.



Joy McGregor

We continue to work with AHS to bring forward the health needs of our communities. It's important that we voice that needs of the North Zone are often unique in Alberta. As well, we'll continue giving input on ways to improve efficiencies, on workforce and service needs and more.

As we make our way into a 'new' world through a global pandemic, we learn to embrace the lessons we have learned and will continue to learn from COVID-19. May we always be thankful for all the front line workers who continue to care for the people of this region, the province and all of Canada.

I wish you all the best!

Thank you,

Joy McGregor
Chair, Lesser Slave Lake HAC

Who we are

The Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council (LSLHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [region](#) surrounding Slave Lake, High Prairie and Wabasca. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



L-R: Cody Twinn, Edna Boucher, Louise Myre, Joy McGregor (Chair), Susan Giesbrecht (Vice Chair)
Missing: Lindsay Davies, Joyce Dvornek, Lindy Fors, Laura Frost, Brian Roche, Debbie Rose, Richard Simnard

The AHS North Zone team provides service to a large geographical area with a diverse population. We place a very high value on the information and advice we receive from a broad range of stakeholders in our communities. The HACs give us a regular forum to share ideas, receive input and refine our ways of working so that our strategies and operational priorities are aligned with provincial and local priorities.

Gregory Cummings
Chief Zone Officer

Highlights

Presentations

- HAC 2.0
- AHS North Zone Priorities
- North Zone Addiction & Mental Health
- Virtual Mental Health
- Indigenous Health
- Connect Care
- Community Rehabilitation Model of Care

North Zone Sector Meeting

- A combined meeting with all six North Zone Health Advisory Councils
- Connection with multiple AHS North Zone leaders
- Members shared top health priorities from their region

Location of Public Meetings

- Slave Lake, High Prairie, Wabasca & virtually
- Participation on the High Prairie Physician Attraction & Retention Committee
- A member presented in Ottawa at the Promoting Life Collaboration workshop in Ottawa as part of the Indigenous Health Program

Key achievements of 2019-20

LSLHAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. We had members of the public in attendance at each of our meetings and we look forward to seeing more as we diversify and broaden awareness of our Council in the year ahead.

2019 saw the terms of some original and long-standing members of Council come to an end. We held a small recognition for originating members Ernie Grach (former Chair), Ken Matthews (former Chair), and Connie McKee. In addition, we said goodbye to Brian Rosche as his two terms ended in December. One new member was appointed in the fall as a representative of the community of Jousard and recruitment to fill vacancies continues.

Several members attended the Annual Advisory Council Fall Forum in Edmonton. This year saw opportunity for participation in a Blanket Ceremony, providing feedback on the future direction of Health Advisory Councils and participation in several information sessions. The blanket ceremony was important in increasing Council awareness of Indigenous history and realizing the role of Albertans in the reconciliation process. We used this opportunity to network with Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and find new ways to partner with others.

Each of our public meetings includes informative presentations on health-related topics of interest. They provide an opportunity for learning about new initiatives and for sharing within our communities. We learned about the following topics:

- Community Rehabilitation Model of Care, also known as Allied Health
- Connect Care overview and plans for phased rollout
- Mental health services
- Indigenous Health Program overview
- North Zone status and priorities overview

We provided feedback from our communities on many health-related topics. Highlights include:

- Workforce recruitment needs and support for Nurse Practitioners, Occupational Therapy and succession planning.
- Seniors care; transportation; EMS Bay in Slave Lake
- Addiction and mental health – access and timely supports for children and youth
- Continuity of care, particularly for youth and First Nations populations
- Access to service (e.g. dialysis; chemotherapy); partnering with school programs
- The importance of using a variety of means to communicate with public, especially for Northern communities with mixed access to reliable internet
- Recommendations for reaching seniors in northern communities (e.g. educating those in seniors homes on the use of [MyHealth Record](#))

A look ahead

2020-21 will be an exciting year for Lesser Slave Lake HAC as we have a stable membership and AHS support staff. A key factor will be two community events that are built into our annual planning cycle. This will allow us to connect with targeted communities, broaden awareness of our Council and gather specific feedback for AHS, for input to future planning.

The year ahead will also include:

- Increasing connections with local Indigenous communities through invitations to HAC meetings and community events hosted by the HAC; and through partnership where opportunity allows
- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, advertising and invitations to targeted stakeholders
- Gathering anecdotal feedback from communities to share with AHS
- Attending local community events to further broaden awareness of our Council
- Continuing to learn about mental health issues and services in the North Zone through connection with addiction and mental health experts
- Continuing to recruit to fill vacancies. In particular, we seek new representation from the Wabasca area. Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils to apply.



Originating members Ken Matthews, Connie McKee, Ernie Grach, 2019

Advisory Councils act in an advisory capacity to Alberta Health Services (AHS) as we share feedback with AHS leadership from our communities about health services. We hold public meetings at locations throughout our geography and participate in engagement activities that further contribute to health services in Alberta.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ lesserslavelake@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or by searching AHS Advisory Councils.

Get involved

You can make a difference to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS. You can get involved by:

- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#). Agendas and notices are posted on the Advisory Council webpage: ahs.ca
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern
- Provide input on various health care topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.



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