

Lesser Slave Lake

2020-21 Annual Report





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Since my appointment to the AHS Board in the fall of 2020, it has been my pleasure to become familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils. By all accounts, Councils have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and have found success in connecting with stakeholders as they adapted to virtual meetings well through 2021.

Advisory Councils continue to be tremendous partners in health. They have been instrumental as a conduit of information from AHS to local communities, a task of particular importance during an extraordinary period of time. Through innovation and determination, each Council has remained committed to its role of advising AHS, and to bringing forward the voices of their communities.

I look forward to working with Advisory Councils in the years ahead and watching as they continue to evolve. Thank you to each member for your ongoing dedication to improving health services for all Albertans.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,
Chair, Community Engagement Committee, AHS Board



Message from the Chair, Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council



Susan Giesbrecht

Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council (LSLHAC) is made up of community volunteers from the Lesser Slave Lake and surrounding areas. We act in an advisory capacity to AHS. Ongoing work on expanding the role and awareness of LSLHAC continues so community members from the area connect with us and better understand our complex healthcare system.

In-person connection with members from local communities has been affected by the global pandemic this year; however, we persevered and contributed to the following new initiatives: an online training on Psychological First Aid, promotion of mental health in the community, announcement of the new emergency medical services station for Slave Lake Healthcare Centre, and the importance of maintaining Seniors and Continuing Care Services during COVID-19.

As Chair of LSLHAC, I would like to thank all my fellow Council members who continue to 'zoom-in' to virtual meetings and bring forth their ideas for action in our area. Our HAC is always open to new members who want to make a difference in Healthcare in the North Zone.

Sincerely,

Susan Giesbrecht
Chair, Lesser Slave Lake Communities Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council (LSLHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) surrounding Slave Lake, High Prairie, and Wabasca. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to obtain photos of our membership. The following members sat on Council in 2020-21:

Susan Giesbrecht (Chair)	Slave Lake, AB
Lindsay Davies (Vice Chair)	High Prairie, AB
Edna Boucher	Peace River, AB
Joyce Dvornek	High Prairie, AB
Lindy Fors	Slave Lake, AB
Robin Guild	Wabasca, AB
Debbie Rose	High Prairie, AB
Richard Simard	Joussard, AB
Cody Twinn	Slave Lake, AB
Norman Wang	Wabasca, AB





Key achievements of 2020-21

We had a very busy year creating awareness of the Council. It proved to be worthwhile as 114 community members attended our meetings and events this last year.



This year we partnered with AHS to host three community engagement events. In November, 48 community members attended two virtual training sessions on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for a Pandemic. Psychological First Aid addresses mental well-being, similar to how Standard First Aid addresses physical injury. These sessions helped participants gain tools focused on stress reduction, stress management, self-awareness, emotional self-regulation and emotional literacy.



Our third community engagement event was held in April where 38 community members attended a session on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements from AHS' Provincial Indigenous Wellness Core. Through this event we built awareness of the reconciliation process. Participants learned what a land acknowledgement is, what it means, and how to develop a land acknowledgement statement.



In March, we participated in a virtual COVID-19 Community Conversation for the North Zone. Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kristin Klein provided an update on the status of COVID-19 in Alberta and the North Zone, and AHS' response - including AHS' vaccination program. Dr. Klein addressed concerns and shared resources for members to share within their communities.



Susan Giesbrecht, Council Chair and Lindsay Davies, Vice Chair, attended a Council of Chairs meeting in April with the Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health. Minister Shandro provided an update and engaged in dialogue with the Chairs.



Council continues to seek members from rural and Indigenous communities in the area to help represent our large geographic region. Click [here](#) to apply.



Presentations:

- COVID-19 Prevention at Home
- Psychological First Aid
- Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre
- Land Acknowledgements



Public Participation:

- 28 community members attended regular HAC meetings
- 86 community members attended community engagement events



A look ahead

In the year ahead, Council will focus on connecting with the communities in our Zone as we plan for meetings and engagement events in 2021-22. We will host two public meetings and we encourage the public to attend and share insights on healthcare services in their community. This will also be an opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest.

Council will co-host two community events in collaboration with AHS. Community stakeholders will be invited to participate and learn more about health initiatives across our Zone.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, promotion, and invitations to local stakeholders.
- Supporting AHS addiction and mental health to promote programs and services.
- Increasing connections with local Indigenous communities through invitations to HAC meetings and community events hosted by the HAC; and through partnership, where opportunity allows.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.
- Recruitment to fill vacancies. Representation is needed from rural and Indigenous communities to ensure diverse perspectives of our Council area.

Our community health partners are essential, and we will continue to build relationships through our meetings and events. Key stakeholders include Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the Zone, and local hospital foundations/ auxiliaries. We appreciate the connection with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), and other local community groups.



Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have been instrumental in helping us get critical COVID-19 information out to our communities and in informing our pandemic response. In addition, they have shifted to a virtual model and engaged hundreds of local Albertans through their community events. The HACs are deeply connected to their local areas and work closely with AHS North Zone leaders. We are grateful for their advice and collaboration. We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities, and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Gregory Cummings

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

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/advisorycouncils.
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

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.

