

# Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health  
Services**

Prairie Mountain  
Health Advisory Council

## Message from the Official Administrator Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

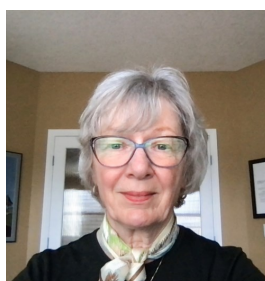
There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

## Message from the Chair (Former) Linda Humphreys, Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council



It has been a year of refocus and recommitment to our strategic objectives. As the effects of COVID subsided, we once again engaged with our communities and AHS leadership to understand health needs and opportunities in our communities. We have also developed a working relationship with the Calgary Zone Primary Care Network including several presentations and follow up collaborations.

It has been a pleasure to welcome several new HAC members who have brought new perspectives, skills and experience to our discussions and community engagements. Members have had the opportunity to engage with senior AHS staff in each of our key areas of focus: Indigenous health, community partnerships, rural health, seniors and continuing care and addictions and mental health. We are particularly happy to be working with AHS on a Healthier Together project. As this program does, we also believe that "the solutions for our most pressing health conditions are ours to create."

We are truly appreciative of the guidance and support of Calgary Zone Leadership and the Community Engagement team. As a Council, we are committed to bringing the voice of our communities and their needs into the delivery of their healthcare services. Through our meetings and community events, we continue to strengthen the open and transparent communication between AHS and our communities, especially during this time of renewed focus on health and healthcare provision.

# OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



Top L-R: Laura Smith (Chair), Linda Elobuike (Vice Chair), Lea Caplan, Tawanda Chiremba, Kira Daly  
Row 2 L-R: , Kieran Dowling, Linda Humphreys, Carol Mason-McLeod, Joyce McCoy, Anton Ovtchinnikov,  
Row 3 L-R: Jay Raymundo, Sukhmani Saini, Judy Wallbridge, Vincent Yellow Old Woman

“On

*behalf of the Calgary Zone leadership team, we sincerely thank the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC) for your support, wisdom, advice, excellent questions and guidance through 2022/23. It has been wonderful being able to meet in person – so much easier to establish relationship and a feeling of community. Our leaders have appreciated being able to work directly with you on our mutual priorities. We look forward to our continued work with you in 2023/24. Thanks you for your ongoing commitment to health and health care!*

**Lori Anderson and Dr. Mark Anselmo**  
Chief Zone Officer and Zone Medical Director, Calgary Zone

# FACTS AND FIGURES



## Council Member Representation

Airdrie  
Calgary  
Canmore

High River  
Nanton  
Siksika



## By the numbers

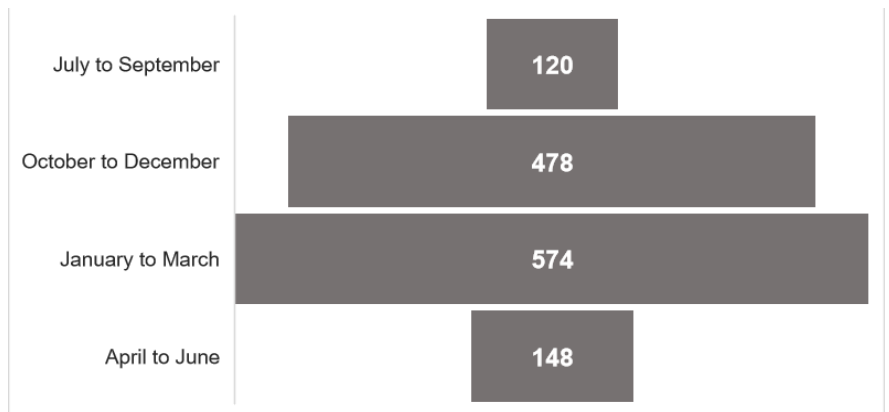
Participation in PMHAC meetings & events:

**3** public meetings

**99** public attended

**4** new members

## Provincial participation at Advisory Council meetings & events\*



\*Reflective of the number of public that attended all HAC and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023..

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

- ✓ PMHAC heard several presentations from Alberta Health Services including one from the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI). Attendees learned about the ASI's progress including performance targets; waitlist updates; operating room utilization & efficiency; workforce; capital update; and a Contracted Surgical Facilities (CSF) update.
- ✓ Council learned about the "Healthier Together" program and found out what the program provided an overview of Population and Public Health.
- ✓ PMHAC gleaned more information about the new information management system, Connect Care.
- ✓ Council held presentation from external healthcare stakeholders in the community such as Mosaic Primary Care Network and Wellspring provincial providers of cancer care resources for patients and families.
- ✓ Council engaged with AHS on a variety of topics, including:
  - Calgary Zone Healthcare Planning
  - Foothills Hospital Over Capacity Brochure
  - Aging in Place – Engagement Session for Older Albertans and Caregivers/Partners

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



### Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



### 2022-23 Influenza Immunization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



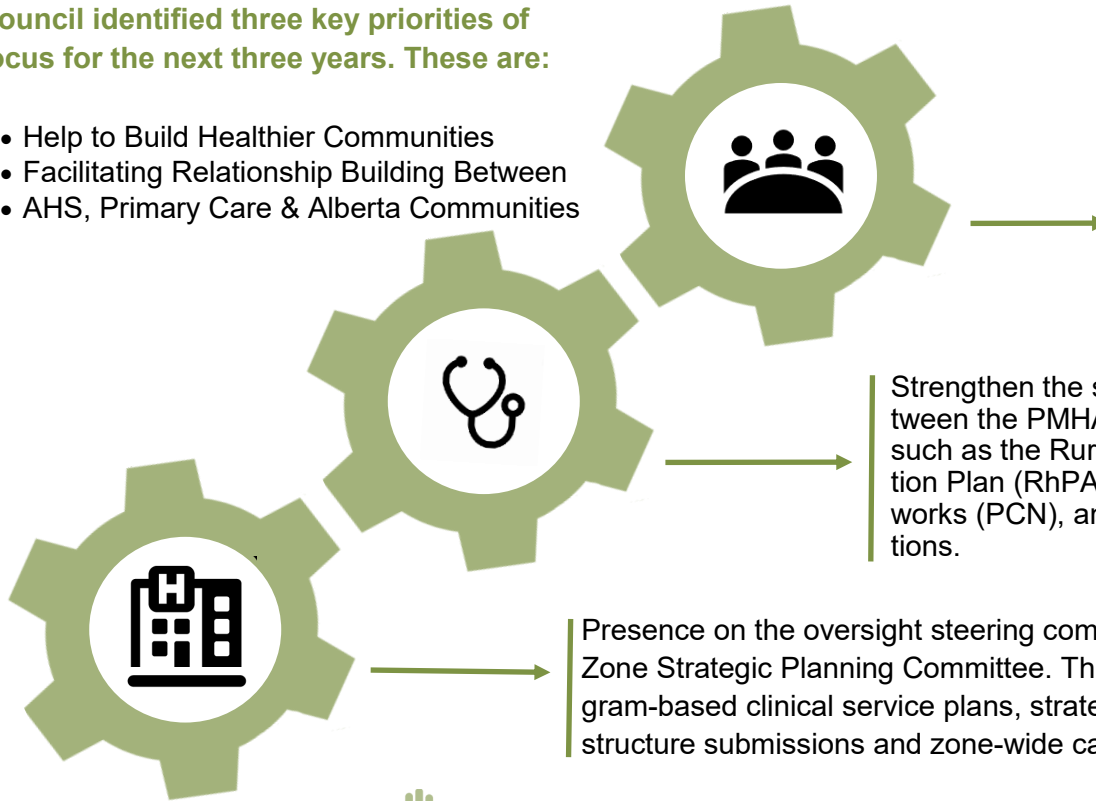
### Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Providers Access policy.

## A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified three key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Help to Build Healthier Communities
- Facilitating Relationship Building Between
- AHS, Primary Care & Alberta Communities



### PMHAC commits to:

Continue bi-monthly meetings to stay connected to leadership and ensure a two-way relationship exists for information sharing.

Strengthen the strategic relationships between the PMHAC and health partners such as the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN), and local health foundations.

Presence on the oversight steering committee and the Calgary Zone Strategic Planning Committee. This work will inform program-based clinical service plans, strategic plans, Alberta Infrastructure submissions and zone-wide capital facility plans.

## GET INVOLVED

Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: [prairiemountain@ahs.ca](mailto:prairiemountain@ahs.ca)
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an [upcoming meeting](#)
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

**APPLY**

