

# Peace

## 2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)





## Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing

severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



*Vicki Yellow Old Woman*



## Message from the Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council

On behalf of the Peace Health Advisory Council, I am pleased to submit our annual report for 2021-22.

Despite last year's challenges, our Council brought out communities together virtually for four public meetings, with presentations about key topics including EMS, Wellspring Cancer Services, and the opening of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre, which will offer crucial services in our region.

While we have seen changes in our communities throughout the pandemic, what hasn't changed is our Council's commitment to provide information to and engage with our region.

Building on our strong relationship with AHS Executive Leadership, our Council continues to convey our area's unique healthcare needs. I am proud of my fellow Council members for bringing forward constructive input to AHS and strongly representing their communities.

As a Council, we are always looking for ways to improve. We welcome input from the public. Engaging with one another in meaningful and respectful ways always leads to positive results.

Sincerely,

Barry Yaehne  
Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council



*Barry Yaehne*



# Who we are

The Peace Health Advisory Council (PHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside within the [geographic area](#) surrounding Grande Prairie, from Grande Cache to Manning. [Visit us online](#) for a full list of membership.



Top L-R: Barry Yaehne (Chair), Charlene Cavers (Vice Chair), Sandra Baker, Marc Boychuk, Alison Cormack.  
Bottom L-R: Danielle Commandeur, Carla Day, Karen Egge, Murray Capon, Yvonne Rempel.  
Missing: Krista Schuett (past Chair), Maurissa Heitland, Tammy Calliou (past member), Maxine Elter (past member), Kirti Sharma (past member)



## Highlights

Peace Health Advisory Council highlights from 2021-22:



### Presentations

- Natalia Reiman, AHS Board member
- Wellspring Cancer Services
- EMS Provincial & Regional Operations update
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital (GPRH) and Cancer Centre
- Alberta Healthy Living Program



### Public Participation

- 43 community members attended regular HAC meetings



# Key achievements of 2021-22

Peace HAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. Council's achievements in 2021-22 included four public meetings and one community engagement session hosting a booth at the Grande Prairie Festival of Trees. This event is the largest annual fundraiser for the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation (GPRHF).

Council met with Dr. Verna Yiu and the AHS Board three times in the past year and had the opportunity to meet with Health Minister Jason Copping on his first day on the job. These invaluable meetings allow Health Advisory Councils to share health-related priorities from across the province in real-time discussion.



## Feedback shared with Zone leadership included:

- Access to mental health and addiction supports
- Continuity of care
- Impacts of COVID-19 on the community, particularly vulnerable populations and seniors, as well as vaccine rollout and supply
- Recruitment and retention of staff for the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, as well as service delivery
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Physician recruitment and retention for rural areas



## Council also engaged with AHS on a variety of topics, including:

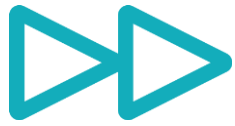
- COVID-19 and vaccine rollout
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) listening sessions
- Indigenous engagement: Grande Prairie Regional Hospital development work
- Primary Care Networks via Primary Care Local Health Neighborhood Coalition
- Rural Healthcare Revitalization Program: Peace River Community Health Centre
- Grateful Patients consultation with AHS Foundation Relations
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alberta family caregivers
- The Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative: A Quality Improvement Project
- Virtual Care in AHS: goals of virtual care and ideas to achieve them
- College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) Virtual Regional Tours



Relationship building through consistent and open communication between AHS and Council continued through strategic planning meetings between the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Advisory Council Coordinator.



In May 2022 members attended the annual Advisory Council Forum in Edmonton. The forum provided an opportunity to participate in an Indigenous Workshop and learn about asset-based community development, virtual health, AHS opioid resources, allyship and many other topics. We used this opportunity to network with Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and establish new partnerships.



## A look ahead

PHAC currently has a full membership of 15 volunteers, representing both urban and rural communities within the area. In the coming year, Council will reach out to local communities through engagement events and by extending invitations to public meetings that will provide valuable information on healthcare topics.

Council remains focused on educating community stakeholders, hosting engagement events and building new partnerships. Plans for the coming year include:

- Creating awareness of community-specific health needs to AHS and requesting feedback on health matters within local communities.
- Maintaining a database of local community events.
- Collecting feedback from Council members to be shared with Zone leadership.
- Actively engage with the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, including support for the annual Festival of Trees event hosted by the GPRHF.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement and at Council meetings and events.

Council continues to value and grow current and new partnerships in health. Relationships with partners like Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) and local health foundations are invaluable. Council appreciates 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 contributed immeasurably to our pandemic response while also sharing key information with our communities. The Councils have also successfully engaged hundreds of Albertans while shifting to virtual community events. I applaud their ongoing efforts to remain connected.*

*It has been my personal pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. I have always found Council members to be dedicated, true community builders, and strong voices for healthcare throughout the North. They are passionate and bring a diversity of opinions and experiences, which makes for rich dialogue and discussion. We are grateful for their time, advice and collaboration with AHS North Zone leaders.*

*We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.*

**Stacy Greening**

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](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils).
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern.
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

## Learn more

Visit [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [peace@ahs.ca](mailto:peace@ahs.ca)

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

