

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by Zoom conference, on December 15, 2021.

Attendees:

Board Members: Mr. Gregory Turnbull, QC, Chair
Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Vice-Chair
Ms. Deborah Apps
Mr. Tony Dagnone, CM
Ms. Sherri Fountain
Mr. Hartley Harris
Mr. Jack Mintz, CM
Ms. Heidi Overguard
Ms. Natalia Reiman
Mr. Brian Vaasjo
Ms. Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Management: Dr. Verna Yiu, President & Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Colleen Turner, Vice President, Community Engagement & Communications
Ms. Catherine MacNeill, Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

Mr. Turnbull acted as Chair of the meeting and Ms. MacNeill acted as Recording Secretary.

Mr. Turnbull called the meeting to order at approximately 9:50 a.m. Notice of the meeting had been properly given and quorum was met.

❖ Welcome & Comments from the Chair

The following is an abstract of Mr. Gregory Turnbull’s, Board Chair, remarks at the meeting. It is not an official transcript:

Good morning, everyone. I am Gregory Turnbull, Chair of the Alberta Health Services Board, and I would like to welcome you to this AHS special Public Board meeting. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

This is a meeting of the Board to consider one motion.

To start, in the spirit of promoting reconciliation and gratitude, and in keeping with the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that the work of Alberta Health Services takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 and the homeland of the Metis.

I would also like to acknowledge the 46 First Nations communities within what we call Alberta, as well as the Metis and Inuit Peoples who form an important part of our healthcare system.

We are grateful to those who have come before us and mindful of those who will follow us as we steward and protect these lands.

Before we get to the business of the day, I'd like to share a few thoughts. And then I will ask Dr. Verna Yiu to share with us prior to the business part of the meeting.

First, this is my first meeting as chair of the AHS Board. I'm pleased to be part of this governance body of Alberta Health Services, and I look forward to working with members of this board, as well as with leadership teams across the organization. There is much work to be done. We must continue to respond quickly and nimbly to the ongoing pandemic.

At the same time, we must also make progress toward the goals outlined by the Minister of Health, including reducing surgical wait lists by increasing surgical capacity; creating additional permanent inpatient capacity in our hospitals; and continuing to find operational efficiencies within the system.

In my new role, I'll work to support AHS to achieve these goals, and to keep listening to and working with people in communities across the province to ensure all Albertans have access to safe, high-quality healthcare services. That's why we're all here.

I would like to sincerely thank the staff, physicians and volunteers of AHS who, over the course of 22 difficult and challenging months of pandemic, continue to support Albertans across the province. Their efforts are appreciated — not just by this Board but by Albertans — and I hope they have time over the holiday season to rest, recharge and spend time with family and loved ones. For those who are working over the holiday season, please know that we are so grateful for all that you do.

❖ **Review of Agenda**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the meeting of the Board held on December 15, 2021, which was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

❖ **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Mr. Turnbull requested that any conflicts of interest relevant to the meeting or items noted on the agenda be declared. None were declared.

2. Comments from the President & Chief Executive Officer

The following is an abstract of Dr. Verna Yiu's, President & Chief Executive Officer, remarks at the meeting. It is not an official transcript:

Good morning, everyone, and thank you, Gregory. Welcome to the Board. On behalf of AHS staff and leadership, thank you for joining us; we look forward to working with you. We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we appreciate the guidance and support we receive from all members of the board.

This is the second holiday season of the pandemic, and I hope all Albertans have an opportunity to enjoy some happy and safe time with their loved ones. This includes our staff, physicians and

volunteers, all of whom have worked many long, difficult and often stressful hours during the course of this pandemic.

I'd also like to thank those healthcare workers who may be sacrificing time with their own loved ones to care for Albertans over the holidays. You truly represent the spirit of giving and good will. But all Albertans can do their part to care for others — and they can do so by making the decision to get fully immunized.

We're seeing increasing numbers of Omicron variant cases in Canada, and immunization is the critical tool to slow its spread, to protect yourself and others, and to avoid a fifth wave of the pandemic. It's no secret the fourth wave put unprecedented pressure on the health system this past summer and fall, and I hope Albertans do everything in their power to help us avoid a similar or even worse situation. Immunization is the only way for us to get through this pandemic. So I urge all eligible Albertans who are not fully vaccinated to get fully vaccinated. You can book your appointments by calling Health Link at 811, or by using the online booking tool that you can find at alberta.ca/vaccine.

As you may have heard, the government announced earlier this morning the expansion of booster-shot eligibility. All Albertans ages 50 and older, and all healthcare workers, who are six months or more from their second dose, can now book to receive a third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to increase their protection against the virus. This will make up to 700,000 more Albertans eligible to book boosters — and that's welcome news.

There is emerging information about third doses being more effective against the Omicron variant, so I encourage Albertans to get their third dose as soon as they are eligible. And I urge all healthcare workers to get their third doses, as well, to protect themselves, patients, families and their colleagues. Again, you can book third doses through Health Link at 811, or by going online at alberta.ca/vaccine. We also know that immunization also offers good protection against severe disease and hospitalization.

More than 3,200 Albertans have died from COVID-19, and I keep thinking about all of the families who will be missing loved ones this holiday season. Through immunization, we can do our part to protect each other and reduce sickness and death.

Thank you — and I wish Albertans all the best in the final weeks of 2021.

3. Community Engagement Committee

a) Health Advisory Councils Bylaw Amendments

The Committee considered amendments to the Amended Bylaw for Alberta Health Services Establishing Health Advisory Councils for recommendation for approval of the Board. The amendments address the Board's delegation of the authority under section 7 of the *Community Health Councils Regulation* to terminate the appointment of advisory council members, and the change in frequency of Health Advisory Council meetings and events. The Board has considered such recommendation and the members support its approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board:

- 1. delegated the authority under section 7 of the Community Health Councils Regulation to terminate the appointment of members of a community health council, to the Alberta Health Services Vice President, Community Engagement and Communications;**
- 2. approved the proposed amendments reviewed by the Committee and the Board to the Amended Bylaw for Alberta Health Services Establishing Health Advisory Councils; and**
- 3. directed the Alberta Health Services Board Chair to sign the amended Bylaws to reflect the approved amendments and submit the same to the Minister of Health for approval.**

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Signed by
Gregory Turnbull, QC
Chair

Signed by
Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel