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Advisory councils: giving Albertans a say in health care

SMOKY LAKE — Alberta Health Services (AHS) has a number of advisory councils whose members provide feedback and perspectives into health care planning and decision-making.

The councils:

- 12 Health Advisory Councils (HACs).
 - The geographically-based HACs engage local communities in a respectful, transparent and accountable manner.
 - There are a maximum of 15 members for each HAC.
 - HAC members serve a maximum of two, three-year terms.
- Two Provincial Advisory Councils (PACs): Addictions and Mental Health, and Cancer.
 - PAC members have experience with cancer or addictions and mental health, and provide input on service planning, existing/emerging issues and ways to improve quality, access and sustainability.
 - There are a maximum of 15 members for each PAC with members serving a maximum of two appointments. These positions are staggered in two- and three-year terms to ensure overlap of new and experienced members.
- Indigenous Wisdom Council
 - This council represents the health interests, priorities, resource needs and service delivery to Alberta's First Nations, Métis Nation/Settlements, and Inuit communities.
 - The Wisdom Council has a maximum of 20 members who serve a maximum of two terms. These positions are also staggered in two- and three-year appointments to ensure overlap of new and experienced members.

Terms of reference and governance:

- Councils meet four to six times a year, and council chairs meet with the AHS Board and senior AHS leaders four times a year.
- HAC and PAC memberships are volunteer, unpaid positions. Out-of-pocket expenses related to council activities are reimbursed according to AHS policies and guidelines.
- Members of the Wisdom Council are reimbursed for pre-approved travel costs/ancillary costs related to meetings, and are eligible to receive an honorarium as approved by AHS based on their exclusive and distinct expertise.

Recruitment:

- New council members are recruited as terms conclude and vacancies arise.
- Last year, recruitment efforts were deferred as council reporting transitioned to the new AHS Board. (Councils had formerly reported to the AHS Official Administrator.) This resulted in a larger volume of applicants and membership renewals this year.
- AHS initiated a recruitment campaign earlier this year. More than 250 people from across Alberta submitted expressions of interest. New members were selected through a rigorous recruitment process.
- Recruitment efforts in Wood Buffalo were deferred due to the fires earlier this spring and have now commenced. Recruitment to the Wisdom Council is ongoing.
- There are five vacancies on the Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council and new opportunities present themselves throughout the year. Anyone interested in this volunteer advisory opportunity should contact AHS.

How to apply:

- Interested Albertans can submit an expression of interest form, available online at <http://www.ahs.ca/shapehealthcare>.
- For more information, contact AHS Community Engagement at 1-877-275-8830, or email community.engagement@ahs.ca.
- To learn more about [AHS Advisory Councils](#), go to the AHS external website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/about/communityrelations.aspx>.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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For media inquiries, contact:

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Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council

Members	Location
David Beale	Fort Kent
Robert Brassard	Cold Lake
Mabel Dick	Athabasca
Marvin Fyten	Lac La Biche
Patricia Palechuk	Smoky Lake
Mel Smith	Redwater
Adriaan Botha (New)	St. Paul
DeAnne Geleta (New)	Athabasca
Parrish Tung (New)	Elk Point
Carol Ulliac (New)	Atmore
Five vacancies	

Addiction and Mental Health Provincial Advisory Council

Members	Location
Karen Andresen	Red Deer
Ariel Haubrich	Wainwright
Denise Lambert	Onoway
Vivian Lillico	Edmonton
Diane MacNaughton	Medicine Hat
Monique Maisonneuve	Guy
Dr. Austin Mardon	Edmonton
Barbara Murray	Picture Butte
Tanya Richer	Calgary
Bavie Sara	Edmonton
Dr. Geoff Tagg	Red Deer
Kathryn Wiebe	Bonnyville
Candice Horne (New)	Calgary/Area
Emily Macphail (New)	Calgary/Area

Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

Members	Location
Varinder Bhullar	Edmonton
Dr. Heather Bryant	Calgary
Tim Buckland	Edmonton
Dr. Margaret Churcher	Calgary
Ray Clark	Calgary
Dr. Anthony Fields	Edmonton
Dan Holinda	Calgary
Ken Landry	Grande Prairie
Dr. Angeline Letendre	Edmonton
Lorelee Marin	Lloydminster
Patti Morris	Calgary
Myka Osinchuk	Calgary
Dean Wheeler	La Crete

Wisdom Council

Members	Location
Teresa Bearchief	Siksika
Stephan Bureau	Edmonton
Rob Campre	Edmonton
Deb Coulter	Edmonton
Frank Daniels	Smith
Paul Daniels	Morley
Alma Desjarlais	East Prairie
Fred Eagletail	Tsuu T'ina
Casey Eagle Speaker	Calgary
Ruth Gladue	Horse Lake First Nation
Claudine Louis	Maskwacis
Dr. James Makokis	Edmonton
Dr. Lana Potts	Chestermere
Andrea Pritchard Kennedy	Calgary
Peggy Richardson	Edmonton
Wally Sinclair	Lac La Biche