

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Provincial Advisory Council 2023-24 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Sexual Orientation,
Gender Identity &
Expression PAC

Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

As we reflect on the journey of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Provincial Advisory Council (PAC), we do so with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation. The dedication, passion, and invaluable contributions of each member has left an indelible mark on Alberta's healthcare landscape, touching countless lives across the province.


Since its beginnings, the PAC has served as a beacon of community engagement and collaboration, bridging the gap between healthcare providers and the diverse needs of Alberta. Your commitment to fostering dialogue, advocating for patient-centred care, and championing initiatives to enhance the quality of care in your respective communities has been truly commendable.

We are deeply indebted to the volunteers who have served on the PAC and who have generously devoted their time and expertise, along with their unwavering support to improving healthcare in our province. Your efforts have helped to shape policies, drive innovations and ensure the voices of Albertans were heard by decision-makers.

On behalf of Alberta Health Services, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each and everyone of the members who served on the PAC. Your contributions will continue to inspire us.

Athana Mentzelopoulos
President and CEO, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Lyle Oberg
Executive Board Chair, Alberta Health Services



Since inception, the SOGIE PAC has been instrumental in advising AHS on improving access and availability of safer and more inclusive healthcare for sexual and gender minority patients and their families. By incorporating members' own personal lived experiences as well as the voices of the LGBTQ2S+ community, the Councils invaluable advice supports compassionate and inclusive care is provided, helping to address the unique needs and experiences of this diverse community.

*Jennifer K.
Chair, Sexual Orientation, Gender and Expression Provincial Advisory Council*

WHO WE ARE

North and Edmonton Zones

Jennifer K., Chair
Rebecca A., Vice Chair
Kenyo A.
Alexandra M.
Scott S.
Evan W.

Central Zone

Michelle S.
Jolene W.

Calgary Zone

Jason B.
Renate B.
Kira D.
Jane O.
Haley W.

South Zone

Carly-Ann H.
Mikey W.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

As I reflect on the past year, I remain proud to serve as the SOGIE PAC Executive Sponsor. The advice and guidance provided by members to Alberta Health Services is instrumental in creating a healthcare environment that is inclusive, respectful, and supportive of sexual and gender minority people and their families.

Throughout this year, SOGIE PAC has given valuable feedback on initiatives like refreshing the Health Quality Council of Alberta's Alberta Quality Matrix for Health tool and developing the AHS Practice Support Tool for Nutrition Assessment for Transgender and Gender Diverse Patients.

The council's proactive engagement – such as co-hosting a table at the Calgary Pride marketplace and presenting to Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council – shows a shared commitment to community awareness-building and collaboration. Your work has not only fostered understanding but also created avenues for support.

I am grateful for your unwavering commitment to this vital work.

Dr. Sid Viner

Vice President and Medical Director, Clinical Operations
Alberta Health Services

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) SOGIE PAC plays an advisory role, considers existing and emerging topics from the service-user's perspective. It makes recommendations to the AHS Board, CEO and Executive Leadership on system-level opportunities to improve service provision and access for gender and sexual diverse Albertans. Members strive to capture lived experience and ensure patients and families are at the centre of all healthcare activities, decisions, and teams. Our key achievements include:

- Members co-hosted a booth at the Calgary Pride Festival in collaboration with the AHS Pride Health Team where they shared and promoted the work of the Council.
- Indigenous Wellness Core and Diversity & Inclusion presented and discussed changes of the AHS acronym from LGBTQ2S+ to a more inclusive and representative acronym of 2SLGBTQI+. SOGIE PAC provided feedback and recommendations on this upcoming change.
- In November, the SOGIE PAC Chair presented to the Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council on the successes of the Council, some facts on the LGBTQ2S+ community and ways in which the Health Advisory Council can support the PAC.
- The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) sought feedback from the SOGIE PAC on a refresh taking place of the [Alberta Quality Matrix for Health](#) tool.
- Members were asked to provide feedback into the new AHS Practice Support Tool titled: Nutrition Assessment for Transgender and Gender Diverse Patients as part of the update to the Adult Nutrition Assessment NPG (Nutrition Practice Guidelines).
- Council members were invited to attend a workshop to find innovative ways to deliver important messaging about hand hygiene.
- Members had the opportunity to participate in a survey pertaining to renaming of the Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Program.
- A SOGIE PAC member had the opportunity to attend the Calgary Patient Family Centered Care Committee during Pride Month and share their family story.
- Members were asked to provide feedback into the revised Safer Spaces Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all, particularly for AHS staff, physicians, and volunteers.

THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Alexandra M.
B A.
Carla G.
Carly-Ann H.
Dr. Kristopher W.
Evan W.
Haley W.
Jamie A.
Jane O.
Jason B.
Jennifer K.
Jolene W.
Kenyo A.
Kira D.
Micheal W.
Michelle S.
Rachel B.
Rebecca A.
Renate B.
Sarah C.
Scott S.
Shawn S.
Stephanie B.*

**Apologies if anyone is missing from this list.*

