



## Making a difference for seniors

Passionate about publicly-funded universal healthcare, Melanie Hassett volunteers for the David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC). When Melanie heard an ad on the radio looking for local volunteers, she felt compelled to sign up.

“It’s important to me to be involved in the community. I’m especially interested in healthcare,” says Melanie.

Serving as an important link between the community and Alberta Health Services (AHS), passionate volunteers, such as Melanie, share their concerns with the DTHAC and these are in turn shared with AHS.

In her local community, many seniors are cared for in hospitals while they wait for a space in a continuing care facility.

“Timely access to continuing care is important for seniors because most often they prefer receiving care outside of acute care settings. It’s important for me to share these concerns with my Council and with AHS,” says Melanie.

Melanie believes that her participation in the DTHAC has value and is contributing to change.

“Our Council has presented several issues to AHS and we’ve already seen some change. For example, AHS recently introduced expanded home care services for seniors.”

In addition to her passion for healthcare, Melanie is a self-proclaimed bookworm and loves to read in her spare time. A former gymnastics coach, she has since taken up yoga to maintain physical and mental wellness.

For more information on the David Thompson Health Advisory Council, visit [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils), or email [davidthompson@ahs.ca](mailto:davidthompson@ahs.ca).



*Melanie Hassett. Victoria, BC, 2019*