

Rosemary wants to cut through the chatter, raise awareness and streamline how healthcare is delivered.

For Rosemary Brown, serving on the David Thompson Health Advisory Council (HAC) is her way to find out what's really going on in Alberta healthcare and raise awareness in her community of Rocky Mountain House.

"Being on Council should be a way to cut through the chatter and learn what's going on — which can then be communicated to the public," she says.

"I feel like there's a lot of people in my community who aren't aware of our Health Advisory Councils, nor are they aware of who actually provides healthcare (Alberta Health Services vs. the Alberta Health branch of government). I think effective, accurate communication could eliminate a lot of misperceptions."

Rosemary says people may be surprised to learn she has a Master of Science degree in Agricultural

Economics.

Rosemary feels strongly about improving efficiency as well as enhancing the perception of healthcare and the value of its dedicated workers across the province.

"Healthcare has always been of interest to me, and even more personally as I've aged. Now, retirement seems like the ideal time for me to indulge in interests beyond raising a family or earning a living. I was also encouraged by the site manager of the Rocky Mountain House Health Centre to apply to be on the Council."

Being on Council is well worth her time, which she now treasures, after a major health scare three decades ago.

"I very nearly died in early 1995 – and I'm now on medication that's only good for one day. I was told that if I forget it today, I die tomorrow. This experience has made me fussier about how I spend my time. I'm very conscious that every day is a gift and I try not to waste it."

In her free time, Rosemary loves to be outdoors.

"I have a small energetic dog, so I tend to be out daily regardless of the weather. My family hikes and kayaks. I also like watching things grow, so I garden. I also enjoy being a choir director."

For more information on the David Thompson Health Advisory Council, visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils, or email davidthompson@ahs.ca.