

# Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council

## 2023-24 Annual Report



## Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

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As we reflect on the journey of the Health Advisory Councils over the past 15 years, it is with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation that we bid farewell. The dedication, passion, and invaluable contributions of each member has left an indelible mark on Alberta's healthcare landscape, touching countless lives across our communities.

Since its beginnings, the Health Advisory Councils have 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 hundreds of volunteers who have served on the HACs 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.

While this marks the end of an era, we hope many of you are looking at new opportunities with Regional Advisory Councils, and have reached out to express your interest. The Health Advisory Councils may cease to exist in their current form but the bonds forged and the lessons learned will endure; the Regional Advisory Councils can benefit from their history and the commitment of those who have served.

On behalf of Alberta Health Services, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each and everyone of the members who served on Councils over the past 15 years. Your contributions will continue to inspire us.

Athana Mentzelopoulos  
President and CEO, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Lyle Oberg  
Executive Board Chair, Alberta Health Services

### QUOTE FROM ZONE LEADERSHIP

*On behalf of the Edmonton Zone leadership team, we extend our sincere gratitude to the GEHAC for providing grassroots connections to improve the health and wellness of our community. GEHAC members have given generously of their time, wisdom and guidance and have provided invaluable public meetings that addressed key areas of interest for the Council and the broader community. As the Alberta health system refocuses, the role of Advisory Councils has remained a priority to support the connection to our communities and to enable local decision making on health services that impact Albertans.*

**Carol Anderson**  
Chief Zone Officer, Edmonton Zone

## WHO WE ARE



Top L-R: Kavis Reed (Chair), Shakib Rahman (Vice Chair), Shelley Biermanski, Maria Melizza Carino, Towunmi Coker  
Row 2 L-R: Donald Farwell, Ben Gronberg, Floyd House, Maryana Kravtseyuk, Vincent Liu  
Row 4 L-R: Austin Mardon, Noah Martin, Leahann McKinnon, Andrea Petryk  
Missing: Nazret Russon

What Council is currently doing is excellent, keep up the amazing work! (anonymous, from annual Advisory Council Satisfaction Survey).

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since their inception in 2009, Advisory Council members have shared advice and feedback from their communities with Alberta Health Services (AHS). They've held public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contributed to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

Through the year, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (GEHAC) partnered with AHS and community health service providers to enhance awareness of the resources available for various healthcare services. Two standout events drew in over 160 participants, fostering an invaluable exchange of information.

In the first event, GEHAC organized a comprehensive information session on the following topics:

- Palliative care,
- End-of-life care, and
- Medical assistance in dying (MAID).

A panel of experts from the following organizations shared insights and resources:

- Pilgrim's Hospice,
- Palliative & End of Life Care Specialty Programs,
- Palliative Institute, and
- MAID Transition Services.

Next, Council hosted a meeting with a presentation on home care in the Edmonton Zone. Participants also discussed allied health and rehabilitation services in the Zone, and learned AHS would like to develop a model that optimizes rehabilitation services to better support patient flow.

In 2024, GEHAC continued its outreach with an engagement event focused on advancing access to health care for racialized populations. Council invited experts from AHS' Indigenous Wellness Core and from the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, who explored inequities in access to healthcare for underserved and racialized groups, and strategies for improvement.

Finally, Council hosted a session on alternative pathways to healthcare and Health Link services. Those in attendance explored several ways of accessing healthcare services, and about the variety of services provided by Health Link, beyond calling 811.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 220 public attended meetings and events through the year.
- 4 meetings and events between July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024.

# THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Alexander Kuznetsov  
Aimee Skye  
Alin Florea  
Alyssa Jantz  
Andrea Petryk  
Angela Kouritzin  
Angela De Carvalto  
Balwinder Ghuman  
Barbara Rothe  
Barbara Selin  
Ben Gronberg  
Beth Wilkey  
Betty Squair  
Bill Forbes  
Bill Teichgraber  
Bill Tonita  
Bonita Valladares  
Brenda Chomey  
Brenda St. Germain  
Camille Miranda  
Carol Rempel  
Catherine Workun  
Chad Kulak  
Cindy Grand  
Cornelia Dootjes  
Crystal Krueger  
Dale Joslin  
Daniella San Martin-Feeney  
David Tencer  
David Hook  
David Eggen  
David Morris  
Deb Manz  
Debra McIlwraith  
Diane Berge

Diane Edlund  
Diane Hawrelak  
Donald Langford  
Donald Farwell  
Donna Fausak  
Dr Austin Mardon  
Duncan Galloway  
Dunsi Oladele  
E. Sharon Brintnell  
Edith Baraniecki  
Esther Cheung  
Eunice Edgington  
Evelyn Jones  
Fahim Hassan  
Fahim Rahman  
Floyd House  
Gary Burns  
Gary Nelson  
Geoffrey Buxton  
Gido Langen  
Gordon Phillips  
Greg Schell  
Greg Wademan  
Greg Dewling  
Heather Yewchuk  
Ian McCormack  
Ian Young  
Ione Challborn  
Iqra Nazir  
Irene Feika  
Jacqueline Biollo  
James Dean  
Jane Morris  
Jane Squire Howden  
John Berlinguette

John Korobanik  
John Robert Veres  
Joy DeMello  
Kailey Schmidt  
Kari Krell  
Kathie Eberhart  
Kathleen LeClair  
Kavis Reed  
Keith Paterson  
Laura-Lee Schroder  
Lauren Armstrong  
Lawrence Tymko  
Leahann McKinnon  
Line Croussette  
Liza Sunley  
Marcus Brauer  
Margaret Wong  
Maria Melizza Carino  
Marlene Pedrick  
Maryana Kravtseyuk  
Matt Jeneroux  
Merle Smith  
Michael Suess  
Michele Arts  
Mike Robertson  
Mike Zouhri  
Moira Walker  
Morley Workun  
Morris Maduro  
Nada Chelvam  
Nazret Russon  
Nirmaljit Nijjar  
Noah Martin  
Pat Brooks  
Pat Hall

Patricia McKendrick  
Priscilla Coker  
Ralph Westwood  
Randy Dreger  
Renate Sainsbury  
Renee Johnson  
Ricardo Casanova  
Ryan Payne  
Sahil Gupta  
Sandra Woitas  
Sara Hassen-Parker  
Shakib Rahman  
Sheila Raffray  
Shelley Biermanski  
Shirley Munro  
Stacey Bajema  
Stephen Moore  
Susan Norum  
Susan Penstone  
Tara Bochinski  
Terena Delaney  
Teresa O'Riordan  
Terrence Bayrock  
Tina Jardine  
Tony Warren  
Trudy Grebenstein  
Una Truscott  
Valerie Spink  
Victor Do  
Vincent Liu  
Wayne Shillington  
Wendy Melnyk  
Winnie Bogosoff\*

\*Apologies if anyone is missing from this list.

