

Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council 2023-24 Annual Report



Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

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: Donalda Farwell, Ben Gronberg, Floyd House, Maryana Kravtsenyuk, 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 share 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 Carvalho
 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
 Donalda Farwell
 Donna Fausak
 Dr Austin Mardon
 Duncan Galloway
 Dunsy 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 Kravtsenyuk
 Matt Jeneroux
 Merie 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
 Ralpf Westwood
 Randy Dreger
 Renate Sainsbury
 Renee Johnson
 Ricardo Casanova
 Ryan Payne
 Sahil Gupta
 Sandra Waitas
 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.*

