



Providing healthcare for a diverse population



Teresa O'Riordan, 2019

A proud Albertan who believes in civic duty, Teresa O'Riordan is a volunteer on the Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (GEHAC). Teresa has a long history of volunteerism and is passionate about healthcare.

"My parents raised me to believe in civic duty. They encouraged me to offer my time, energy and talents to community events, organizations and social change activities. Because of their encouragement, I've volunteered with schools, church initiatives and social change organizations. When I applied to join the GEHAC I was, and continue to be, excited to have the opportunity to share the stories and voices of my community," says Teresa.

Teresa believes the GEHAC has made some key contributions to health care, including working closely with Alberta Health Services to deliver new programs and services.

"Not only are we improving health care services, we're ensuring that the representation on the GEHAC is culturally and demographically diverse. In other words, we're seeing improvements in gender balance, age representation and cultural diversity," adds Teresa.

To do its part to improve the patient and family experience, the Council encourages communication, invites participation and promotes AHS engagement with local communities.

"Improving the quality of care while remaining respectful of our diverse populations' needs is critically important to me. I believe it's possible to build a top-notch quality health care system if we consult with the grassroots of our communities," says Teresa.

Teresa is an avid supporter of the performing arts. When she's not volunteering she can be found enjoying a musical, a dance performance or the theatre. She also loves to read and travel and hopes one day to write a book.

For more information on the Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council, visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils, or email greateredmonton@ahs.ca.