

Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council 2023-24 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Lakeland Communities
Health Advisory Council

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

It is a pleasure to work alongside the northern residents who volunteer as valued members of our Health Advisory Councils. These individuals are passionate about their communities and the importance of healthcare delivery in northern Alberta. Through engagement with our Councils, we continue to develop a rich understanding of the local needs from the community and patient perspectives. Thank-you to all our council members for the time and thoughtfulness with which they engage on topics of relevance to health care in the north.

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

WHO WE ARE



*Top L-R: Ida Edwards (Chair), Heather Stomquist (Vice Chair), Elzbieta Berglund
Row 2 L-R: Brad Eamon, Carrie Goldsmith, Terri Hampson
Bottom L-R: Ed Tomasz, Joanne Williams
Missing: Victoria Sparklingeyes, Maureen Sullivan, Lorin Tkachuk*

“ We have a great Council and I love to be involved. (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.

Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council (LCHAC) held two regular public meetings and one in camera meeting through the year. Presentation topics included EMS updates, AHS new Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Program (AVCPP), workforce updates from AHS' Talent Acquisition team, and much more.

The Council hosted a virtual engagement event where they heard from local AHS Public Health, Allied Health and Mental Health teams about shared health supports for children under the age of five, including:

- Health supports for preschool children.
- Childhood immunizations.
- Preventive care.
- Pre-natal care services.

Council attended a session with the Health Minister in November to learn about plans to refocus the health system, and subsequent changes to AHS and Health Advisory Councils. In March, Council met in Athabasca with MLA Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health, and staff from Alberta Health, to discuss successes and opportunities for improvement as government prepared to launch its new Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

Council was invited to attend the Raising of the Tipi ceremony at the William J. Cadzow-Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre in May. The Chair and Vice Chair also had the opportunity to attend the grand reopening of the renovated and upgraded Medical Device Reprocessing Area (MDRA) at the William J. Cadzow-Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre in May.

Topics of discussion throughout the year included:

- Physician recruitment.
- Healthcare worker appreciation.
- Hospital department closures (staffing shortages).
- Connect Care launch.
- Access to seniors care in the region.
- Rural mental health services.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 82 public attended meetings and events through the year.
- 3 meetings and events were held between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.
- 3 new members recruited.

THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Adriaan Botha
Ahmad Qayyum
Alanna Bauman
Alexander Herdman
Beatrice Fotty
Brad Eamon
Candice Maglione
Carol Ulliac
Carrie Goldsmith
Cheryl Edwards
Cindy Bizon
Claudette Dubé
David Beale
Deanna Anderson
DeAnne Geleta
Derek Coe
Diane Mineault-Ellis
Douglas Lamb
Ed Tomaszuk
Evangelen McNamara
Gladys Boisvert
Glenn Andersen
Heather Stromquist
Ida Edwards
James Lamouche
Joanne Williams
Jocelyn Loken

Kaylee Kinch
Lorne Dustow
Louise Reidy
Louise Member
Lynn Hetherington
Mabel Dick
Margaret Daniels
Marvin Fyten
Mary-Lynn Hetherington
Maureen Sullivan
Mel Smith
Mireille Lavoie-Beaupré
Parrish Tung
Patricia Palechuk
Patricia Joy Clarke
Pauline Thompson
Phyllis Collins
Robert Brassard
Roberta McKale
Russ Member
Terri Hampson
Trevor Kotowich
Victoria Sparklingeyes
Violet Wells
Yvonne St. Arnault*

**Apologies if anyone is missing from this list.*

