



Jim brings his passion to council to improve the health outcomes for Indigenous and all Albertans



Jim Bennett is fluent in the Blackfoot language and is the proud owner of a traditional headdress.

A desire to make a difference in the healthcare of all Albertans, with a special focus on improving access and the quality of healthcare for Indigenous people led Jim Bennett to his role as a member of the Oldman River Health Advisory Council (HAC).

“I wanted to be involved in something bigger than I was doing at the time,” Jim says. “I felt that Alberta Health Services (AHS) was doing great things in issues I find important — and I wanted to be able to help with my skill set.

“My motivation comes from the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I want all Albertans to have the same access to healthcare and similar health outcomes for all people.”

Jim is passionate about his family, his community and helping others.

“I’ve spent over 13 years working with First Nation people in southern Alberta,” he adds. “I’m passionate about being a voice for reconciliation in policing and in healthcare. I’m also passionate

about supporting Indigenous southern Albertans who are homeless, with basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter.”

Of his HAC work to date, his accomplishments include supporting Council in facilitating several successful public-engagement events — which have also served his goal of raising awareness of the challenges, issues and health outcomes facing Indigenous people across his region.

While the work is ongoing, Jim says he feels hopeful for more progress.

“AHS has some great leaders and employees. I believe all AHS employees and volunteers want the best for people living in the South Zone. We’re here to help. We’re a productive go-between with Zone Leadership.”

People may be surprised to learn Jim can carry a conversation in the Blackfoot language, and is also the proud owner of a traditional headdress.

In his free time, he loves to golf and play ice hockey, as well as volunteer in his community.

“I volunteer with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics as vice chair of the Southwest Region of Alberta. I’m also the chair for a Rotary Indigenous Engagement Committee under their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Portfolio.”

For more information on the Oldman River Health Advisory Council, visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils, or email oldmanriver@ahs.ca.