



## Meet Sandy Bunse: Building bridges between communities and Peace Health Advisory Council

Sandy Bunse, a retired school teacher, spends some of her free time as a member of Peace Health Advisory Council (HAC), and lives in Hythe, a rural community in the northern part of the province an hour north of Grande Prairie.

When it comes to healthcare services, many northern residents drive to a major city where specialty care is available. Sandy hopes that her participation as a Council member will raise awareness about the need for healthcare in her community and possibly bring some much-needed services to her area.

Sandy's goal is to build a bridge between her community and council. "My role is to listen to what the community is saying about healthcare and then share this back with council," says Sandy. "Equally important is taking the information from Council back to the community."

The Peace HAC has had two primary areas of focus – addictions and mental health and rural transportation. "I'm excited that our Council is doing such a great job bringing addictions and mental health (AMH) awareness to our communities," she said. "People are more aware of AMH issues and better educated about healthcare services available in the local area."

There are also issues with transportation in northern communities. "It's difficult for members of our community to get to a major city for healthcare treatments and we're working on a transportation solution so that people are more easily able to access city healthcare," adds Sandy.

For years, Sandy worked at a junior high school where she grew to love the unique characteristics of adolescents. She cherishes her memories of working with this age group and hopes one day her participation on Council will bring benefits to these great kids.

In her free time, Sandy loves to travel and garden. She's an avid vegetable gardener and loves the fresh summer produce she grows in her own backyard.

For more information on the Peace HAC, visit [www.ahs.ca/ac](http://www.ahs.ca/ac) or email [peace@ahs.ca](mailto:peace@ahs.ca).

