

# Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council

2023-24 Annual Report



**Alberta Health  
Services**

Prairie Mountain  
Health Advisory Council

## Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

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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

*We wish to thank you all for your commitment to healthcare within the Calgary Zone. We have appreciated and benefitted from your support, suggestions, questions, concerns, and representative voice on behalf of our community! It has been a privilege to share our achievements, garner valued input and discuss complex challenges with you through this journey. We hope you able to continue to share your expertise, ideas and passion for health and healthcare in the future.*

**Lori Anderson and Dr. Mark Anselmo**  
Chief Zone Officer and Zone Medical Director, Calgary Zone

# WHO WE ARE



Top L-R: Linda Humphreys (Chair), Judy Wallbridge (Vice Chair), Josephine Adda, Lea Caplan  
Row 2 L-R: Tawanda Chiremba, Kieran Dowling, Linda Eloubuike, Joyce McCoy  
Row 3 L-R: Anton Ovtchinnikov, Jay Raymundo, Laura Smith, Vincent Yellow Old Woman

*The most extraordinary aspect of the Health Advisory Councils, and an important driver of their success, was the belief that no voice or individual was ever considered too ordinary to participate.*

**Laura Smith**

Chair, Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since their inception in 2009, Advisory Council members have shared 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.

The Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC) made their work commitments a priority focusing all presentations and events on noteworthy health-related topics of interest. The Council hosted meetings at the Didsbury District Health Centre, where members toured the facility and learned of improvements such as the new ambulance bay access, extended care ward, and new mental health facilities construction. Council met at the South Health Campus and toured the Wellness Kitchen, and learned about a COVID quarantine overflow ward that was established during the pandemic but ultimately not needed.

Meeting presentation topics included:

- Calgary Zone Healthcare Planning
- South Health Campus-specific Clinical Service Planning or CSP on-site patient and family engagement
- Calgary and Area Primary Care Network (PCN): Home to Hospital, Hospital to Home program.

The Council hosted an engagement event on Workforce Strategy Planning for Calgary Zone where AHS Calgary Zone leadership and Human Resources provided a high-level overview of the strategy and planning being rolled out in the zone.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Council Coordinator met monthly with AHS Calgary Zone leadership to ensure Council was kept updated on health matters occurring in the zone. The Chair also participated on the Calgary Zone Healthcare Planning Committee.

Feedback shared with Calgary Zone leadership included discussion about accessible addiction and mental health resources in the Calgary Zone, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Council members had additional opportunities to participate on several health-related subcommittees, with member involvement past and present on the following:

- Calgary Zone Oversight Committee – Complex High Needs Initiatives
- Calgary Zone Patient and Family Centered Care
- Primary Care Committee
- Provincial Health Link Advisory Council
- South Health Campus Citizen Advisory Team (CAT)
- Calgary Zone Health Care Planning Steering Committee
- Indigenous Health Planning Group ly representative on an AHS working group: Ambulatory Care with RhPAP
- Emergency Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN)
- Addiction & Mental Health SCN
- Healthier Together Pilot Program.

# THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Alanna Marcuccio  
Anton Ovtchinnikov  
Arden Jones  
Balwinder Kahlon  
Barbara Barry  
Bill Rice  
Carla Helder  
Carmela Hutchison  
Carole Goruk  
Clark Kassian  
Clyde Elford  
David Clark  
David Ferguson  
David Hawkins  
Debbie Goeseels  
Diana Bon Bernard  
Don Watt  
Elaine Rose  
Ernst Wheeler  
Esther Rogers  
Francesca Simon  
Frank Saulnier  
Ginette Palmer  
Gladys Fay Herrick  
Glenda Wall  
Gloria Wilkinson  
Gwendolyn Cham  
Heather Hanberg  
Ian Morgan  
Irene Elizabeth Pfeiffer  
Janet Riganti  
Jasmyne Rossenthal  
Jason Evanson  
Jay Raymundo  
Jean-Marc Lacasse  
Joel Christie

Joginder Sangha  
John Huang  
John Johnson  
Josephine Adda  
Joyce McCoy  
Judy Walbridge  
Judy Hellevang  
Judy Johnson  
Judy Martin  
Kathy Blain  
Kieran Dowling  
Kirsten Wallace  
Landon Henkelman  
Laree Findlay  
Larry Peabody  
Larry Albrecht  
Laura Smith  
Laureen Darr  
Lawrence Santiago  
Lea Caplan  
Linda Elobuike  
Linda Mendelman  
Linda Humphreys  
Luis Delgado  
Mairi Matheson  
Marg Pollon  
Marie Lauer  
Marueen Hay  
Mary Jardine  
Michele Geistlinger  
Michelle Wong  
Moremi Omotoso  
Nicole Jelley  
Ola Lawal  
Patricia Ann Hrudko  
Paula Zacharias

Phyllis Wardle  
Ralph Levinson  
Riana Downs  
Rick Rogers  
Robert McInnis  
Roberta Meehan  
Ronald Carter  
Roy Freeborn  
Roy Goodall  
Sandra Robertshaw  
Sandy Durrant  
Shannon Rennie  
Sharaz Khan  
Shauna Snow-Capparelli  
Sherri Gussman  
Shirley Froese  
Stephanie Friesen  
Steven Herbert  
Sue Hunter  
Surinder Rehill  
Susan Turner  
Suzanne Archer  
Tawanda Chiremba  
Ted Woynillowicz  
Tina Crossfield  
Tracy D. Mah  
Tyler Magwood  
Vaishali Manker  
Vincent Yellow Old Woman  
Vladimir Diordiev  
Wendy Farrance  
Wendy Neidhardt  
William Laird  
William Love  
William Stokes\*

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

