



Joyce strives for seniors to remain in their homes and for rural equity in healthcare.



*2020 Stars of Alberta
Volunteer Award
recipient.*

Joyce McCoy has a special place in her heart for the welfare of seniors and rural Albertans. It is this and a passion for community that she is transforming into positive healthcare action as a member of the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC).

In 2020, she won the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award for her energy and commitment. But the bug to serve on council was put in her ear a few years earlier.

“I attended a community meeting in Calgary about the future of healthcare in 2016 and met people who told me about PMHAC,” she says. “I was interested in improving seniors’ lives and keeping them in the community they call home.

“I feel I can make a positive difference to Alberta Health Services (AHS) and my community through learning and growth opportunities. As a HAC member, I’m able to provide updates to my community and share events, like mobile health, as well as provide feedback to AHS.”

Joyce expends a lot of time and energy growing community and developing projects to benefit her neighbours.

“I’m also very passionate about healthy aging in place. I believe it’s important to allow people to remain in their home and community with the supports they need to thrive.”

As a Council member since 2018, “I’ve shared my learnings with my community and people trust the messaging. Community members contact me with concerns, and I bring them back to our meetings to share with senior leaders, who listen and address our concerns.”

She would like more people to learn about Advisory Councils and the value they bring to healthcare.

“I wish more people knew about the Advisory Councils and their role in AHS. I think the value of the Councils is that AHS is able to get input from the people who use their services.”

In her free time, Joyce loves to garden, cook, do canning, ski, walk and hang out with her grandkids — but community development gets a lion’s share of her hours.

“I want to be part of the improvement of healthcare in Alberta. I want equity for rural Albertans. I’ve seen things that I’ve brought to the attention of administration resolved in a very proactive way. I know I’m making a difference. It’s very rewarding.”

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