

True North Health Advisory Council

2023-24 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

True North
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.

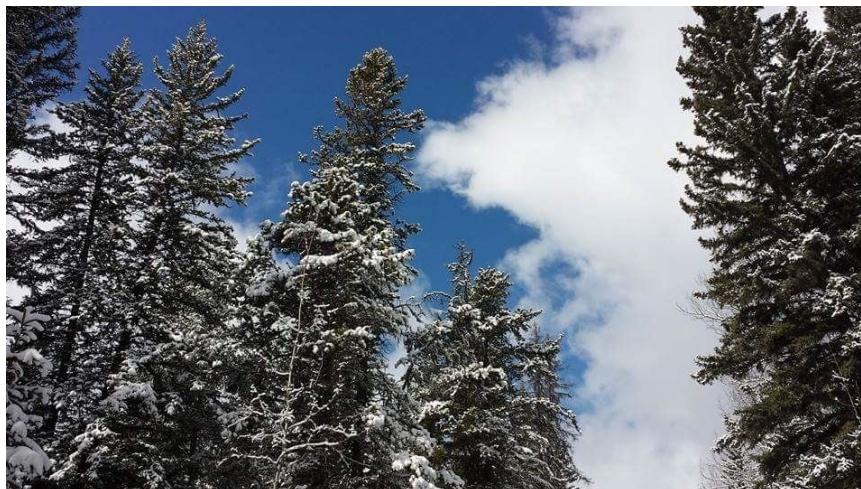
Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

WHO WE ARE



Top L-R: Julie Melville (Chair), Liane Mercredi (Vice Chair), Gord Burnell, Wilma Cardinal
Middle L-R: Rick Cartier, Darrell Derksen, Nella Fehr
Bottom L-R: Shelly Komarnicki, Gina Martens, Tracey Stauffer
Missing: Crystal McLean, Judith Weibe

*I believe these Councils are an invaluable resource to our communities.
(anonymous, from annual Advisory Council Satisfaction Survey).*



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.

Council continued building relationships through regular strategic planning meetings between the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Council Coordinator. These touchpoints ensured consistent and open dialogue between AHS and Council, improving the feedback loop with communities.

With wildfires in the Northwest Territories (NWT) in September, High Level was a temporary home for many evacuees and TNHAC members were there to offer support.

TNHAC committed to learn about mental health and addiction services and resources available in the Council area. Council invited staff from AHS and from the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention to share information about the services available to those in need of support.

In April, Council hosted a virtual meeting with a presentation on lessons learned from the 2023 wildfire season, and how they're being applied in 2024. Russ Nelson, Director, North Zone Emergency and Disaster Management, and Julie Melville, Chair of TNHAC and Deputy Mayor of Rainbow Lake, provided information from their perspectives as AHS and municipality representatives. Several public from surrounding communities were present, including Zama City, High Level, Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Settlements, who shared their experiences and concerns.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 48 public attended meeting and events through the year.
- Four meetings and events between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Andy Wiebe
Caroline Adam- Courtoreille
Clark McAskile
Crystal Mclean
Crystal McAteer
Dan Fletcher
Danny Friesen
Darrell Derksen
Eric Jorgensen
Eric Jorgensen
Gary Callihoo
Gina Martens
Gord Burnell
Jo Bentley
Joyce Fehr
Joyce Parenteau
Judith Wiebe
Julie Melville

Liane Mercredi
Lisa Wardley
Mary Janzen
Matthew Murphy
Michael Osborn
Nella Fehr
Noreen McAteer
Ray Toews
Richard Cartier
Sandra Mann
Sharon McLean
Shelly Komarnicki
Susan Callihoo
Tracey Stauffer
Waldemar Schroeder
Wendy Ward
Wilma Cardinal*

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

