



## Lifelong learner Breanna is a passionate advocate for her Wood Buffalo community



*Helped to found PRIDE YMM, a group of community members committed to raising awareness and promoting inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+*

“I hope that I can help to enact positive change within our community,” says Breanna Wallace, who recently volunteered to serve as a member of the Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council.

“My professional and academic interests have led me to become very involved in direct client support and I see a wide array of people from all walks of life come through my door,” she says. “In speaking with these individuals, I can gather information and get a sense of what some immediate needs are for Wood Buffalo. I feel like I will be a great advocate for our community — and be able to help guide decisions to be made for the people of Wood Buffalo.”

Breanna exudes genuine excitement for both her work on Council and for life in general.

“I’m excited to learn and grow with the Council as a voice for our community — and hopefully I’ll be able to see some positive changes for our community. In life, currently, I’m excited about continuing my education and reaching my goals.”

As a HAC member, “I see the value in having a group of people who live in Wood Buffalo making suggestions to Alberta Health Services (AHS) on how we’d like to see our health services. I’m excited to learn about everything my predecessors on Council have accomplished — and look forward to see everything we’ll be able to accomplish together.

“My sense of hope comes from being on a team of like-minded individuals and being able to suggest the changes we’d like to see come to fruition.

“I’m also a lifelong learner — I try to always be enrolled in some kind of class to further my education.”

As she reflects on her life, she considers the resilience that carried her through so many life-changing experiences.

“I’ve lived a lot and learned even more in my few years in this world. I grew up in a home where there was a lot of addiction and unhealed mental health and abuse. I came to Fort McMurray without my parents at 15, because I needed a change.

“I finished high school and went on to college and graduated from a Social Work program and I’m now in university taking my Bachelor of Psychology. None of this has been easy, but I knew I wanted a different life than the one I had before. I thank that 15-year-old Breanna every day for changing my path at such a pivotal point in my life. I’ve grown to be very independent and strong because of her determination.”

In her precious free time, “I enjoy snuggling my kitties, going boating, fishing, snowboarding and camping along our beautiful rivers we have in Fort McMurray. I also love volunteering in our community, going for coffee with friends, getting firewood — and then having a fire in my backyard.

For more information on the Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council, visit [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils), or email [woodbuffalo@ahs.ca](mailto:woodbuffalo@ahs.ca).