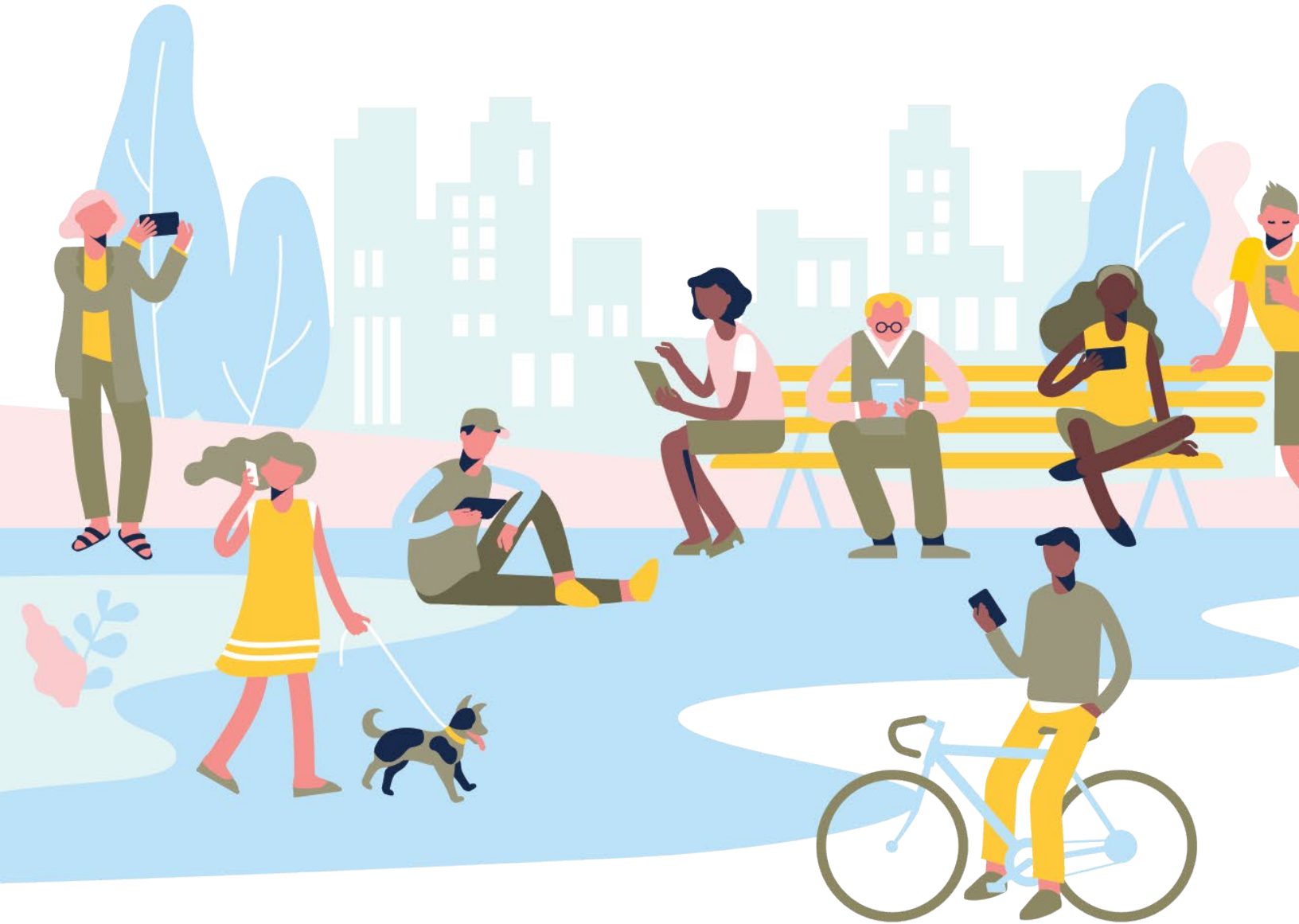


# Seniors and Continuing Care

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





## Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



*Vicki Yellow Old Woman*

It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,  
Chair, Community Engagement Committee, AHS Board



## Message from the Chair, Seniors and Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council



*Julie Kelndorfer*

Gratitude is the word that comes to mind when I think back over the past year. While the Council formally thanked Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Dr. Laura McDougall, and Dr. Verna Yiu for their leadership during the pandemic, our Council regularly shared their gratitude for all Albertans working on the front lines, including in our continuing care system.

Another year of virtual Council meetings included rich discussion on a multitude of presentations and topics from family caregivers, Continuing Care Health Service Standards, Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA), sexuality, aging and home and continuing care in Alberta to the Final Report Recommendations from the Facility-Based Continuing Care Review. Council members also participated in numerous projects and provided feedback on consultations throughout the year representing the voice of our Council.

As 2021 is my last full year as Chair of this Council I am grateful to have led such a dedicated and passionate group of volunteers, alongside AHS staff, to improve the lives of Albertans in the continuing care system.

Sincerely,

Julie Kelndorfer  
Chair, Seniors and Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council



# Who we are

The Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council (SCC PAC) is comprised of fifteen (15) volunteer members with lived continuing care system experience. Members provide their lived experience perspectives to Alberta Health Services to help improve the quality, accessibility and availability of continuing care services in Alberta.



Top L-R: Susan Sommerfeldt, Lou Henderson, Julie Kelndorfer, Linda Grant, Jim Hubbard  
Bottom L-R: Ray Clark, John Erkelens, Teresa Willigar, Gabrielle Kirk, Fred Bosma  
Missing: Diahann Polege-Aulotte, Irene Pirie, Joan Monson, Judy Long



## Highlights



### Presentations

- Alberta Health – recommendations from the Facility-Based Continuing Care Review
- Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) – annual long-term care and designated supportive living Family and Resident Surveys and the COVID-19 Continuing Care Study, Experiences and Impact Survey
- Sexuality and sexual health of older adults.



### Council Activities

- Provided input to two new national long-term care standards to Health Standards Organization, Standards Council of Canada and Canadian Standards Association.
- Sent letters of thanks to Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Dr. Laura McDougall, Dr. Verna Yiu and AHS Executive for extraordinary efforts through COVID-19 pandemic
- Attended Health Advisory Council (HAC) meetings to share information about seniors and continuing care and the SCC PAC.



# Key achievements of 2021-22

The AHS Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council, in an advisory role, considers existing and emerging topics from the continuing care community service-user's perspective. It makes recommendations to the AHS Board, CEO and Executive Leadership on system-level opportunities to improve continuing care service provision and access for Albertans. Members strive to capture lived experience and ensure patients and families are at the centre of all healthcare activities, decisions and teams.

- Developed first *Council Commitments* (formerly known as the Work Plan) document outlining Council priorities for the coming two years.
- Attended meeting with the Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health.
- Participated in surveys and stakeholder opportunities including *Caregivers Alberta* research project for caregivers in paid labour force, and the *EY/Alberta Health Home Care Service Scope* workshops.
- Represented the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council at Health Advisory Council meetings around Alberta.
- Received information from AHS on:
  - Sessions related to EMS community connection
  - Home Care
  - AHS Foundations
  - Forgotten Lives
  - Experiences of trans older adults with dementia
  - Alberta Pain Strategy
- Represented continuing care system-access perspective on:
  - AHS Provincial Continuing Care Policy Review & Implementation Panel
  - AHS Edmonton Zone Continuing Care Client & Family Advisory Medical Equipment and Supplies Working Group
  - Appropriate Prescribing and Medication Use Strategy for Older Albertans
  - Ad hoc groups participation as requested/required

# A look ahead

The AHS Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council is looking forward to reconvening in-person meetings in the coming year.

Council will continue to promote community wellness through better understanding of continuing care system levels of care and the range of services offered at the community level.

Additionally, Council will continue to increase public awareness of the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council by:



Actively engaging with community members and inviting them to attend Council meetings.



Sharing information about the Council through local community groups and organizations with interest in continuing care and community wellness.



Collaborating with other AHS Advisory Councils.



Sharing AHS Advisory Council social media posts via Facebook and Twitter.

Recruitment is ongoing across all AHS Zones. Interested in [applying](#)? To apply, visit [www.ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](http://www.ahs.ca/advisorycouncils).

*What I appreciate about the PAC are a couple of things. One is the atmosphere of the meetings with lots of good, open discussion about issues where we need advice. There is never a sense of tension, but rather there is a sense of working together. It is a comfortable space to have the discussions we need to have.*

*The other is the members themselves. They are a great group – very committed, always interested and willing to become involved and support activities, and always with great ideas, suggestions and questions! It is one of the meetings I truly look forward to attending.*

**Dr. Jim Silvius**

Senior Medical Director, Provincial Seniors Health & Continuing Care

Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

## Get involved

You can make a difference to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS. You can get involved by:

- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#). Agendas and notices are posted on the Advisory Council webpage: [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#).

## Learn more

Visit [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [cc.pac@ahs.ca](mailto:cc.pac@ahs.ca)

☎ 1.877.275.8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or by searching AHS Advisory Councils.

