

Cancer Provincial Advisory Council 2018-19 Annual Report



Cancer Provincial
Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.

Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

Alberta Health Services values Advisory Council members as volunteers, leaders and partners in healthcare planning. With every year that passes, I see how our Councils continue to grow and expand. They challenge us and ask really great questions, they share the AHS story with their communities, their families and neighbours – helping Albertans everywhere to better understand our complex healthcare system – and they advise AHS on our planning, programs and services.



Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn

We have a number of long-time members leaving Councils in 2019-20 and we would like to acknowledge their hard work, dedication and passion. While we will miss them, we also know it's important for new voices to join the conversation and we look forward to building new partnerships, relationships and connections. We hope our departing members will continue to share their advice as members of the public and share their knowledge of the healthcare system.

This year, we added 23 new members to the Advisory Council family, and we also added a new Council. We were pleased to support and nurture the development of the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council.

Members have made many contributions in their local areas, and you'll learn more about them in this report. Here are a few general examples from across the province over the past year:

- **Evolution of the Wisdom Council:** new Terms of Reference will guide the work of the Wisdom Council and includes creation of an Elder Circle which gives an enhanced role to Elders in helping to advise AHS on programs and services to best meet the needs of Indigenous people.
- **Connect Care:** a number of members have joined the patient advisory committees.
- **Supporting more addiction and mental health services:** many Councils held information sessions and highlighted the importance of services; their efforts helped support the development of Edmonton's new Access 24/7 Addiction and Mental Health Clinic and enhance awareness on services and access.
- **Expanding relationships:** connecting with the LGBTQ2S+ community through the new SOGIE PAC, meeting with municipal leaders, and holding meetings at Métis Settlements.
- **Connecting with Albertans through [Community Conversations](#):** Health Advisory Councils partnered with AHS to host 12 events across the province, where Albertans shared their views about challenges and solutions to healthcare issues.
- **Highlighting top concerns:** based on feedback from their communities, all Councils advised us on local concerns. AHS tracks and responds to concerns at each Council meeting.
- **Participation in Community Engagement Committee of the Board meetings:** various Council Chairs joined the conversation and shared ideas.

Member satisfaction is important to us, and it was gratifying to learn through the Annual Satisfaction Survey that our members are feeling generally satisfied in their roles. They've also said there's a need for more clarity on their role, and we're listening. We have begun work on an overarching Health Advisory Council review to address some of the gaps, and to ensure all our members fully understand their role.

On behalf of the AHS Board of Directors, our leadership team, and our workforce, thank you for your passion and time. We look forward to continuing to work with you on improving healthcare for Albertans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn

Vice Chair, Board of Directors; Chair, AHS Community Engagement Committee of the Board

Message from the Chair, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

The composition of the Provincial Advisory Council on Cancer (PACC) is unique among Alberta Health Services' Advisory Councils. PACC comprises a mixture of persons touched by cancer and persons selected for special professional or administrative expertise relevant to cancer.



Dr. Tony Fields

The principal mechanisms by which PACC provides advice and comment to AHS, in fulfillment of its work plan, include:

- Providing advice to AHS leaders through discussion at PACC meetings following presentations on key program issues;
- Individual PACC members' participation by appointment or invitation to certain AHS committees or planning meetings (e.g. membership on the Core Committee and some working groups of the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network);
- Interacting with the Health Advisory Councils, the other Provincial Advisory Councils and the Wisdom Council through the Council of Chairs and the annual Fall Forum.

PACC's annual report illustrates the breadth of issues considered by PACC during 2018/19, as it interfaced with leadership of CancerControl Alberta, the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network and the cancer prevention and screening leadership of Population, Public and Indigenous Health.

Two very special activities deserve highlighting:

- During the December 2018 meeting, PACC hosted *Sharing Our Stories*, a full day session involving representatives of the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Settlement General Council, the AHS Wisdom Council, and leaders and managers from CancerControl Alberta and AHS Population, Public and Indigenous Health. The purpose of the meeting was for all to gain a better understanding of the status and challenges of provision of cancer services to Indigenous persons and populations in Alberta, to underpin accelerated progress towards equity in service quality.
- During PACC's March 2019 meeting, PACC had a viewing of the film: *Greg's Story: Falling through the Cracks*, presented and discussed by Dave and Teri Price. This poignant experience heightened PACC's understanding and appreciation of AHS initiatives to improve the continuity of clinical services to cancer patients.

I would also like to thank Ms. Nancy Guebert, Ms. Brenda Hubley, Dr. Matthew Parliament, Dr. Huiming Yang, Ms. Barb O'Neill and Dr. Doug Stewart, for their invaluable contributions to our work. Very special thanks to Ms. Laura Lee Clarke and Ms. Selene Snell for their skillful and diligent administrative support of PACC's activities. Finally, the management and staff of AHS Community & External Relations have helped to ground PACC's work within the wider context of all Advisory Councils activities.

A. L. A. (Tony) Fields, CM, MD, FRCPC, FACP, DSc (Hon)
Chair, Provincial Advisory Council on Cancer

About our Council

2018 - 2019 Council Members

Current Members

Dr. Tony	Fields (Chair)	Edmonton
Dr. Margaret	Churcher (Vice Chair)	Calgary
Leanne	Anderson	Vulcan
Varinder	Bhullar	Edmonton
Dr. Bryson	Brown	Lethbridge
Dr. Heather	Bryant	Calgary
Tim	Buckland	Edmonton
Andrea	DeYoung	Stettler
Chelsea	Draeger	Calgary
Ernie	Grach	Wabasca
Kenneth	Landry	Grande Prairie
Dr. Angeline	Letendre	Edmonton
Lorelee	Marin	Lloydminster
Patti	Morris	Calgary

Past Members

George	Andrews	Edmonton
Steven	Herbert	Calgary
Ray	Clark	Calgary
Michelle	Zielinski	Edmonton

Permanent Resources

Permanent resource persons are appointed to Council by the Board by virtue of the roles they play within their organization and are members without voting rights. They are subject matter experts and leaders in the area of cancer services who assist, inform, and guide Council to achieve its objectives

Nancy	Guebert	Chief Program Officer, CancerControl Alberta
Dr. Matthew	Parliament	Senior Medical Director, CancerControl Alberta
Dr. Huiming	Yang	Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Healthy Living & Medical Director, Screening, Population, Public and Indigenous Health
Barbara	O'Neill	Senior Provincial Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network
Dr. Douglas	Stewart	Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network



Front row left to right: Chelsea Draeger, Dr. Margaret Churcher, Dr. Tony Fields, Nancy Guebert, Leanne Anderson

Back row left to right: Ray Clark, Dr. Bryson Brown, Michelle Zielinski, Tim Buckland, Varinder Bhullar, Steven Herbert, Ernie Grach, Lorelee Marin, Dr. Huiming Yang

Missing: Dr. Heather Bryant, Kenneth Landry, Dr. Angeline Letendre, Patti Morris, Andrea DeYoung

Our priorities

- Support the implementation of “**Changing our Future: Alberta’s Cancer Plan to 2030**”, through advice to AHS CancerControl Alberta to enhance cancer services for all Albertans.
- Represent the patient voice with community perspectives and thoughtful engagement and conversations that create shared understanding.
- Engage with Health Advisory Councils, Provincial Advisory Councils, Wisdom Council and the public to harness patient and community perspectives to enrich Cancer PACs deliberations and advice.
- Share lived experiences and perspectives with Alberta Health Services

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In December 2018, a diverse group of participants met in Edmonton to attend a facilitated full day Indigenous Forum – “Sharing Our Stories”.

The aim was to bring awareness and gain a better understanding of the status and challenges of provision of cancer services to Indigenous persons and populations in Alberta.



Cancer PAC members met with CancerControl Alberta, the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) and the Alberta Cancer Foundation in June 2018 to assist in the development of a framework and plan for delivering Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Services in Alberta.

Cancer PAC members participated in CancerControl Alberta’s Patient Reported Outcomes (PROS) Symposium held in Calgary in November 2018.



Our activities

Presentations by AHS and CancerControl Alberta leadership that enhance members understanding of cancer services or provide an opportunity to give input and feedback included the following:

- **Tour and Presentation of Wellspring Calgary - No One has to Face Cancer Alone** *Patti Morris, Executive Director Wellspring Calgary*
- **Alcohol & Cancer: It's Complicated** *Dr. Heather Bryant, Chief Scientific Officer, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)*
- **Cancer Control Alberta's Patient and Family Partners** *Debora Allatt, Lead Patient Experience, CancerControl Alberta, AHS*
- **Falling Through the Cracks: Greg's Story** *Dave Price and Teri Price, Greg's Wings Projects*
- **Provincial Breast Health Initiative** *Dr. Douglas Stewart, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN), CancerControl Alberta, AHS*
- **Cancer Screening Programs in Alberta** *Dr. Huiming Yang, Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Healthy Living & Medical Director, Screening, Population, Public and Indigenous Health, AHS*
- **Alberta Cancer Foundation Update** *George Andrews, CEO, Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF)*

Cancer PAC hosted a full day **Forum – Sharing Our Stories** which included stories from Indigenous cancer patients and presentations from the following:

- **Cancer and Healing** *Dr. James Makokis, Key Note Speaker, Assistant Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta, Yellowhead Tribal College Faculty Member*
- **Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC)** *Bonnie Healy, Executive Director & Chair of Board of Directors, AFNIGC and Lea Bill, Research Oversight Manager, AFNIGC*
- **Métis Nation of Alberta** *Heather Curtis, Research & Project Coordinator, Métis Nation of Alberta*
- **Métis Settlements General Council** *Darlene Carifelle, Health Board Coordinator, Métis Settlements General Council & Dorothy Anderson, Elected Secretary & Métis Settlements Health Board Chair, Métis Settlements General Council*
- **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)** *Alice Muirhead, Program Manager, Partner Initiative, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis*

Working with AHS

Engagement opportunities for Cancer PAC members to participate in planning activities and committees have been identified within CancerControl Alberta in the following areas:

- Cancer Strategy for First Nations, Inuit & Métis in Alberta
- CancerControl Alberta Telehealth Strategy
- Provincial Breast Health Initiative
- Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Program
- Patient Reported Outcomes (PROS)
- Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT)
- Provincial Cellular Therapy Program
- Regional Cancer Centres Service Planning

A look ahead

- Review and provide advice on AHS and CancerControl Alberta's priorities and progress.
- Review progress on of Changing our Future: Alberta's Cancer Plan to 2030.
- Encourage joint appointments of individuals to PACC and a Health Advisory Council.
- Build linkages with the Wisdom Council to ensure indigenous perspectives are considered by PACC.
- Continue to explore opportunities to effectively engage directly with the public through social media platforms.

About the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

Quick facts

- 16 volunteers with either lived experience with cancer or with special professional or administrative expertise relevant to cancer
- Council meets four times a year alternating between Calgary and Edmonton
- To ensure representation of both urban and rural perspectives, members are recruited loosely based on AHS Zones
- Two public members from each of North, Edmonton, Central, and Calgary Zones
- One public member from the South Zone

Get involved

- Visit ahs.ca
- Email pac.cancer@ahs.ca
- Check out our Twitter and Facebook accounts, by searching AHS Advisory Councils



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