

Cancer

2020-21 Annual Report





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Since my appointment to the AHS Board in the fall of 2020, it has been my pleasure to become familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils. By all accounts, Councils have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and have found success in connecting with stakeholders as they adapted to virtual meetings well through 2021.

Advisory Councils continue to be tremendous partners in health. They have been instrumental as a conduit of information from AHS to local communities, a task of particular importance during an extraordinary period of time. Through innovation and determination, each Council has remained committed to its role of advising AHS, and to bringing forward the voices of their communities.

I look forward to working with Advisory Councils in the years ahead and watching as they continue to evolve. Thank you to each member for your ongoing dedication to improving health services for all Albertans.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council



Brad Gillespie

Like the Advisory Councils across Alberta, the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council had a year like no other. Being unable to meet in person, our PAC has adapted to virtual meetings, primarily using Zoom and email to communicate. This has left us in the interesting position of having members old and new who have never actually met in person!

PAC membership has changed in the last year, with several members completing their terms or making changes that necessitated them leaving our Council. Our sincere thanks to Varinder Bhullar, Tim Buckland, Dr. Margaret Churcher, Chelsea Draeger, Martin Dugas and Patti Morris for your contributions. Our best wishes to you. To our newest members – we look forward to working together.

Throughout the year, our PAC has received a number of worthwhile presentations expanding our understanding of cancer related issues in Alberta, as well as regular updates regarding progress made with the Calgary Cancer Centre. This is in addition to a comprehensive presentation orienting members to the role, purpose and operation of the Cancer PAC.

I would like to offer personal thanks to Dr. Margaret Churcher for her extreme helpfulness and mentorship in orienting me to the role of Chair. Lastly, our Council is grateful to the AHS Executive leads and Resource/Support leads for their indefatigable assistance this past year.

Sincerely,

Bradley Gillespie
Chair, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council



Who we are

The Cancer Provincial Advisory Council is comprised of up to 18 volunteer members from across the province who are experts in cancer-related fields, have a loved one touched by cancer, or are cancer survivors. We provide advice on service delivery, system policies, strategies, planning, and sustainability for a province-wide cancer system.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to obtain photos of our membership. The following members sat on Council in 2020-21:

Brad Gillespie (Chair)	Lethbridge, AB
Wendy Pandowski (Vice Chair)	Lloydminster, AB
Leanne Anderson	Vulcan, AB
Mark Armstrong	Edmonton, AB
Wendy Beauchesne	Calgary, AB
Janette (Jill) Bernhart	Foremost, AB
Sheena Clifford	Calgary, AB
Andrea DeYoung	Stettler, AB
Ernie Grach	Wabasca, AB
Diane Huband	Calgary, AB
Marilyn Hundleby	Edmonton, AB
Courtney Kerrigan	Edmonton, AB
Wendy Plandowski	Lloydminster, AB
Wanda Redel	Calgary, AB
Wally Sinclair	Lac La Biche, AB
Melissa Smith	Stettler, AB
Lorri Winship	Drayton Valley, AB



Highlights



Subcommittee Participation

- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Advisory Group
- Indigenous Cancer Strategy
- Cancer SCN Core Committee
- Virtual Health Initiative



Recruitment

- Six members terms came to an end
- Recruited three new public members and three expert members
- Recruited two new Adolescent and Young Adult public members



Key achievements of 2020-21

Presentations that enhanced our understanding of cancer services or provided an opportunity to provide input and feedback included the following:

Cancer Supportive Care Strategic Priorities - Dr. Jill Turner and Dr. Laura Labelle, Supportive Care Leads, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)

Indigenous Cancer Strategy - Debora Allatt, Manager, Education and Patient Experience, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)

Cancer Virtual Care Framework - Dr. Matthew Parliament, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS), and Brenda Hubley, Chief Program Officer, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)

The Cancer PAC – Past, Present and Future - Dr. Margaret Churcher, Past Chair, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council (PAC)

Cancer Diagnosis – A Timely Diagnosis Matters - Dr. Douglas Stewart, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Network, Barbara O'Neill, Senior Provincial Director, Cancer Strategic Network, and Jennifer Green, Senior Communications Advisor, Communications (AHS).



Members had the opportunity to review and provide input into:

- Development and sustainability models for high quality virtual care in cancer.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Focus Group.
- Public messaging and questions that may arise on the prioritization of cancer treatment during the pandemic.
- “Listen to Your Body” public awareness campaign material.
- Action Plan for Indigenous Cancer Care in Alberta.
- Building capacity for high quality cancer survivorship care closer to home by improving the coordination and continuity of cancer survivors transitioning from cancer care to primary care and beyond.



A personal digital story on a member’s experience of navigating transitions as a cancer patient was created as part of the “Living Well After Cancer – A Community Collaboration” project.



The Cancer PAC has implemented some of the initiatives from the HAC 2.0 Review such as:

- Updating the Bylaws and Terms of Reference to be consistent and aligned with other Advisory Councils.
- Revising of the work plan to a living commitments and priorities document.



Meetings connected members in Edmonton, Calgary, Wabasca, Lac La Biche, Stettler, Drayton Valley, Lloydminster, Foremost, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Vulcan.



A look ahead

Council has developed a robust 2021-2024 Commitments and Priorities Plan in which members commit to:

- **Share and provide information** through their respective networks.
- **Engage Albertans** and bring more voices to the conversation.
- Make a difference and **improve the experience of Albertans** diagnosed with cancer by seeking opportunities to provide advice to AHS to improve access and services.
- **Self assessment and continuous improvement** of the Council.

The Cancer PAC will continue to **review** the initiatives under HAC 2.0 and look for **efficiencies** to **maximize** the opportunity for the Council.



We are incredibly fortunate to work alongside a diverse group of Cancer Provincial Advisory Council members who are committed to providing advice and guidance into the delivery of cancer care and services within our program. The member's invaluable contributions help ground us in what is important from the cancer patients, their family and our community partners' experiences.

Dr. Matthew Parliament

Senior Medical Director

Brenda Hubley

Chief Program Officer, Cancer Care Alberta

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.
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for two- or three-year terms.



Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ pac.cancer@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

