

Prairie Mountain

2019-20 Annual Report



Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

Alberta Health Services values Advisory Council members as volunteers, leaders and partners in health care 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 health care system – and they advise AHS on our planning, programs and services.



Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn

We had 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn,
Vice Chair, Board of Directors; Chair, Community Engagement Committee of the Board

Message from the Chair, Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council

I want to take this opportunity to thank the communities we have heard from over the past year and let you know you have a voice in health care and we appreciate the opportunity to represent you at the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC).



Scott Mitchell

To all the fantastic members of PMHAC past and present, I thank you for your commitment to your community and to health and wellness. We have been able to design our 2019-20 Council work plan with our communities' input, and through healthy conversation we can communicate our needs/concerns to AHS. As we look forward to positive engagement with the communities that make up the Calgary Zone, we are cognizant of the challenges that COVID-19 has placed on all of us.

Sincerely,

Scott Mitchell, Chair
Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council

Who we are

The Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [region](#) including and surrounding the city of Calgary. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



*L-R: Joyce McCoy, Rsmeya Hammoud, Laureen Darr, Andrew Nguyen, Francesca Simon, Linda Humphreys
Missing: Scott Mitchell, Sheena Taggart, Anita Jenkins, Donna Crowshoe, Vincent Yellow Old Woman & Lisa Thomson*

Highlights

Presentations

- Nanton Quality of Life Foundation
- Population, Public & Indigenous Health Strategic Clinical Network
- Alberta Cancer Prevention: Data for Healthier Communities

Subcommittee Involvement

- Calgary Zone Oversight Committee
- Patient & Family Centred Care
- Primary Care
- Provincial HealthLink Advisory Council
- Health Care Planning Core Committee

Location of Public Meetings

- Calgary, Cochrane, Nanton & virtually
- 18 members of the public attended

Key achievements of 2019-20

The diversity of the PMHAC is more than gender, age, cultural background or place of residence. It's inclusive of our members' varied set of experiences.

One of the highlights identified was the Annual Advisory Council Fall Forum that took place in Edmonton. Here, many members participated in their first Blanket Ceremony. They were also tasked with providing feedback as part of the HAC Review, which has resulted in the development of a new model and direction for HACs, HAC 2.0. At Fall Forum, we participated in several information sessions. Many used the event to network, collect new ideas and find ways to partner with Councils across the province.

Our public agendas featured presentations aligned with our work plan priorities and topics of interest in our communities, such as:

- Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)
- The Calgary Zone Indigenous Health Action Plan
- Emergency SCN

We provided feedback from our communities on many health-related topics, including:

- The Emergency Patient Journey Map: We reviewed the map and provided feedback on its readability and clarity as a tool for communicating with Emergency Department staff.
- Alberta Cancer Prevention, Data for Healthier Communities:
 - Provided input to the Alberta Community Health and Comprehensive Cancer Prevention Profile.
 - Using data to drive community action to prevent cancer.
 - Data that gives a voice to Albertans; story telling with data; co-design and collaboration.
 - Alberta Healthy Communities Initiative active in Pincher Creek & Vulcan.

Council took the show on the road and in May 2019 we hosted a public meeting in Cochrane. Here, we learned about the Emergency Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) and the Patient Journey Map. In September, we met in Nanton where we toured the local community health clinic and the Silver Willow Lodge. We heard from representatives of the Nanton Quality of Life Foundation, Nanton Town Council and from community members. March 2020 was unique as we were introduced to the Zoom platform as a method of meeting virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic and we heard a presentation on the Calgary Zone Indigenous Health Action Plan.

In June, Council hosted a [Community Conversation](#) in Canmore where stakeholders of the local community provided insight on ways to partner to improve health care for Albertans. Feedback from the session was shared with AHS' Health Plan and Business Plan team. The event was a great opportunity to increase awareness about our Council and our role.

A look ahead

As we plan for the year ahead Council will focus on connecting with rural and urban communities as we plan for meetings and engagement events in 2020-21. Two public meetings will be held where public can attend and share their insights on health care issues arising in their community. This will also be an opportunity to hear from health-related presenters or local stakeholders on topics of interest.

In the year ahead, Council will co-host two community events in collaboration with AHS, invite community stakeholders to participate in engagement, and learn more about a health topic of priority.

The year ahead will also include:

- Member attendance at local community events to increase awareness of the Health Advisory Council
- Increasing connections with local Indigenous communities
- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, promotion and invitations to local stakeholders
- Continued recruitment to fill Council vacancies on Council, with a focus on rural areas in and around Calgary. We seek new representation from the Cochrane, Airdrie and Okotoks area. See page six for information on how to apply.

Our community partners in health are important, and we will continue to work toward building new relationships through our meetings and events. Our key stakeholders include Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the Calgary Zone and local health foundations. In addition, local Mayors and Reeves, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups are welcome to attend our public meetings and connect with us at any time throughout the year.

The Calgary Zone has greatly benefitted from the advice, guidance, support and engagement of the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council over the past challenging year. Many of the members have provided valuable contributions to strategic and operational planning and are members of Zone committees. Their voice, representing the diverse communities and populations of the Calgary Zone, helps to ground us in what is essential and important to consider in the delivery of care, programs and services.

Lori Anderson
Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone

Advisory Councils act in an advisory capacity to Alberta Health Services (AHS) as we share feedback with AHS leadership from our communities about health services. We hold public meetings at locations throughout our geography and participate in engagement activities that further contribute to health services in Alberta.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ prairiemountain@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

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



Prairie Mountain
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.