

Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Cancer Provincial
Advisory Council

Message from the Official Administrator Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

Message from the Chair

Wendy Plandowski, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council



On behalf of the Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) for Cancer, I would like to thank all those involved in healthcare in our province for working towards a healthier Alberta.

To the volunteers, the supporting staff members and the healthcare professionals, we cannot thank you enough for your continuous collective efforts. Thank you to each of the contributing presenters that attended our meetings over the past year, and shared information, wisdom and updates on various projects and initiatives.

Finally, our Council is grateful to our Coordinators and AHS executive leads and resource/support leads for their engaged and thoughtful leadership as we fight the battle against cancer and work towards better treatment and outcomes for everyone affected!

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

North Zone

Ernie Grach
Wally Sinclair
Carol Van Slyke

Edmonton Zone

Edrick Andrews
Mark Armstrong
Marilyn Hundleby

Central Zone

Wendy Plandowski
Shelia Reckseidler

Calgary Zone

Soulafa Al-Abbasi
Sheena Clifford
Wanda Redel

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



2022-23 Influenza Immunization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Care Providers Access Policy.



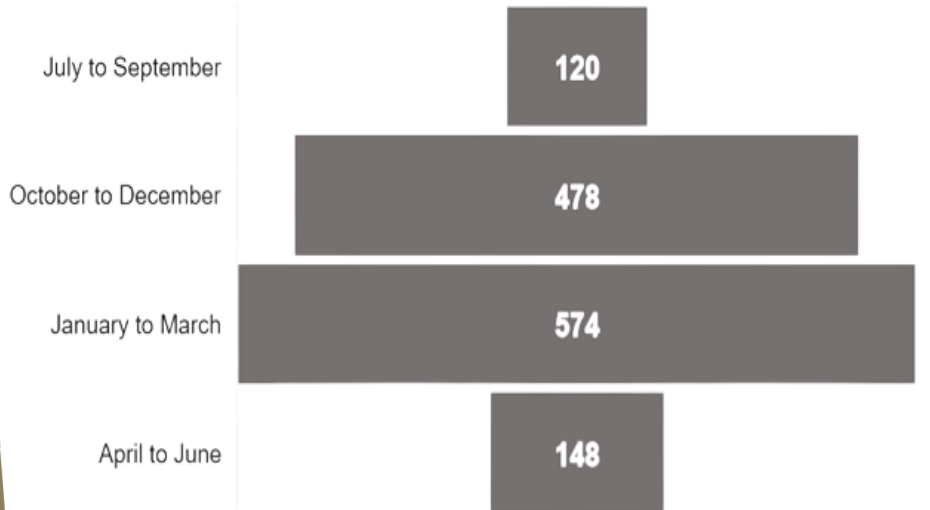
In June 2023 Alberta Health Services (AHS) and its partners — the Alberta Cancer Foundation and the University of Calgary received a \$50-million donation from the Arthur J.E. Child Foundation. This is the largest philanthropic gift in AHS' history. The Calgary Cancer Centre is scheduled to open in 2024.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Membership Representation



Participation at Advisory Council Meetings & Events*



*Reflective of the number of public that attended Health and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

“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. Dean Ruether and Brenda Hubley
Senior Medical Director and Chief Program Officer, Cancer Care Alberta

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Cancer Provincial Advisory Council (Cancer PAC) is advisory in nature and provides a way for Albertans to identify existing and emerging issues from the cancer community service users' perspective. We advise the AHS Official Administrator, CEO and the Executive Leadership on service delivery, system coordination, standardized program delivery approaches, policy and procedures to improve quality, access and sustainability of cancer services for Albertans. We do this by demonstrating the importance of family/patient lived experience, ensuring a strong collaboration around all healthcare activities in the area of cancer care. Our key achievements include:

✓ Represented cancer system-access perspective, including:

- Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) Core Committee
- Virtual Health Initiative
- Living Well After Cancer Advisory Council
- Wellspring Central Alberta Cancer Support Working Group
- Cancer Care Alberta Quality Metrics Advisory Council
- Indigenous Cancer Care Action Plan.

✓ Recruitment

- Reappointment of three members.
- Andrea DeYoung completed her term and we thank her for the hard work and dedication to the Cancer PAC.
- Recruitment completed to fill a vacancy in the North, Edmonton and Central zone.
- Recruitment to fill vacancies in North and South Zones will commence.

✓ Chair and Vice Chair:

- Wendy Plandowski, Chair; Mark Armstrong, Vice Chair, were elected for a two-year term.

✓ Expert Members:

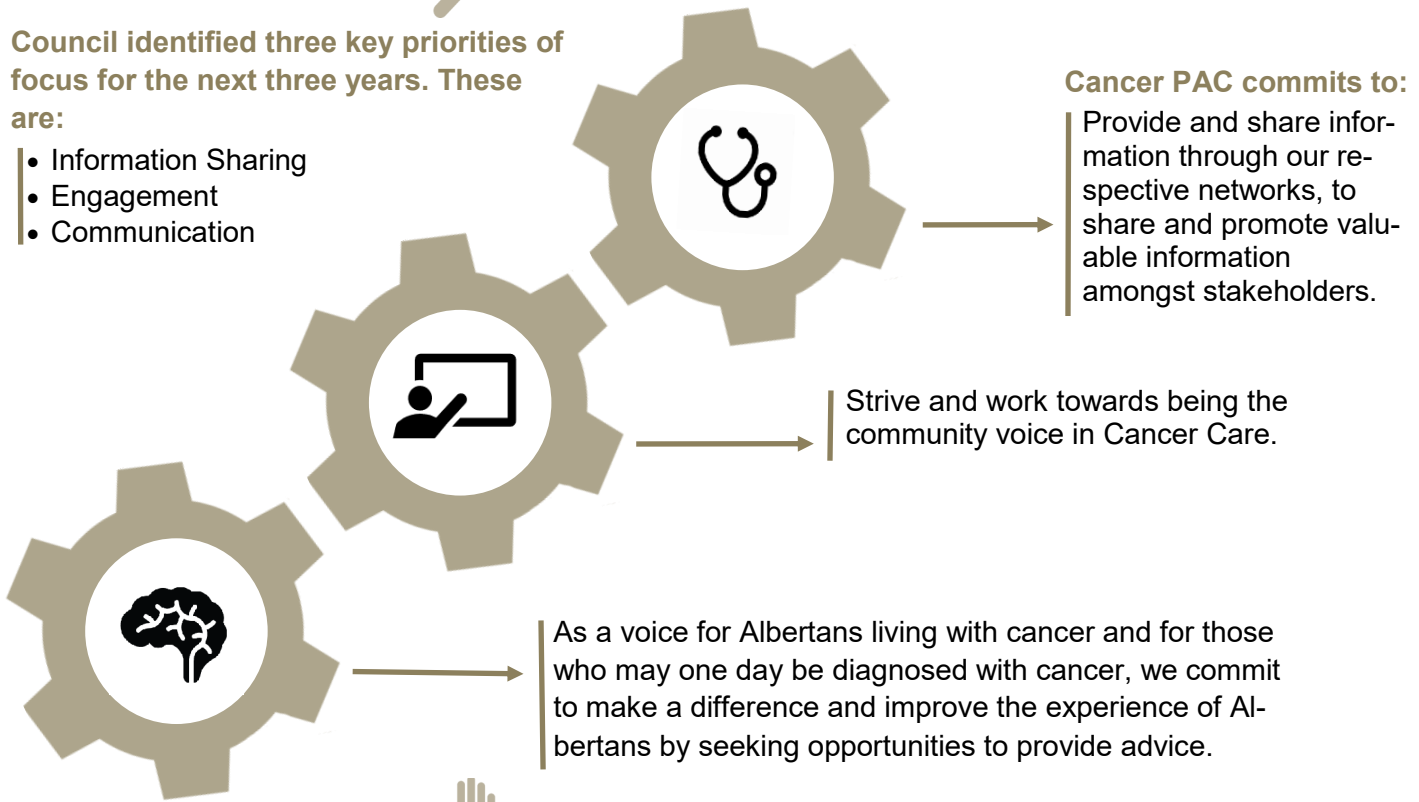
- Cancer PAC has experts from Wellspring Edmonton and Wellspring Calgary on Council. [Wellspring](#) is a non-profit organization that offers free services to cancer patients, caregivers and kids.
- An expert from the [Alberta Cancer Foundation](#) is also on the Cancer PAC.
- Permanent Resource Persons from AHS serve as subject matter experts and support the Cancer PAC.



A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified three key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Information Sharing
- Engagement
- Communication



GET INVOLVED

Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: pac.cancer@ahs.ca
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an [upcoming meeting](#)
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

APPLY

