

# Greater Edmonton

## 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, AHS Community Engagement Committee of the Board

## Message from the Chair, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council

I send well wishes to all Albertans and highlight some areas of priority that have been brought forward to AHS Zone leadership through Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (GEHAC) over the last year.



*Anahi Johnson*

We heard the importance of supervised consumption services and the need for compassionate and appropriate care for our Indigenous and LGBTQ2S+ communities. We reached out to those facing housing problems and to newcomers to Canada, who have challenges in accessing needed health care. Community members also raised the alarm on seniors care and the urgent need for transformation.

Conversations with AHS leadership give me hope that community input will help improve accessibility and health outcomes. Thanks to our community members, for sharing your stories and discussing how we can create a public health care system that is safe and equitable for all.

Stay safe and take care of each other,

Anahi Johnson  
Chair, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council

## Who we are

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



L-R: Shakib Rahman, Edith Baraniecki, Sharon Brintnell, Fahim Hassan, Janice Willier, Anahi Johnson, Shirley Munro  
Missing: Deana Adams, Rume Djebah, Floyd House, Harman Kahlon, Teresa O'Riordan, Nick Polturak, Nazret Russon, Jahnavel Sachez Noguez

## Highlights

Presentations	Opportunity for Participation	Location of Public Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 811 Health Link</li><li>• Indigenous Health</li><li>• Driver Evaluation &amp; Training Service (DETS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Search &amp; Selection for Zone Clinical Department Head for Family Medicine</li><li>• Health Link</li><li>• Kaye Competition Review</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spruce Grove, Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton and virtually</li></ul>

## Key achievements of 2019-20

GEHAC had a very exciting year. We attended several events in the community, some alongside AHS leaders; our participation provided an opportunity to interact with over 100 community members, increasing awareness of our Council. These events also allowed us to engage in discussion about the health services that matter to our communities. We gathered this information and shared the findings with Council and AHS leaders. The events we attended include:

- Bi-Annual Homeless Connect event, hosted by Homeward Trust Edmonton.
- Annual Diversity Health Fair hosted by Actions for Healthy Communities.
- Vision 2030 for Seniors Services Symposium, the Building Dementia Awareness Conference run by the Early Onset Dementia Alberta Foundation.
- Opioid and Marijuana; Managing the Nationwide Emergency lecture.

Council was grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback to AHS on making improvements to its website. We connected with the web communications team where we shared our experiences and thoughts about the [Finding My Way](#) webpage. Finding My Way is an initiative to improve wayfinding for services, facilities and resources on the AHS website.

AHS invited GEHAC to attend the following special announcements:

- The Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation – investment of \$26M to build a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre east of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.
- A Traditional Indigenous Blessing Ceremony - blessing of the new Edmonton Hospital/Health Campus. These ceremonies are an opportunity to bring people from all nations together in friendship, and to affirm AHS' commitment to working together on the new hospital.
- Official opening of Edmonton Zone Addiction & Mental Health Access 24/7.
- Federal Funding announcement - an investment of more than \$1.8M from the Government of Canada to expand the Glenrose Rehabilitation Research Innovation and Technology (GRRIT) Hub.

In February we were invited to present to the Community Engagement Committee of the Board where we shared information about our recent successes, challenges, and opportunities.

## A look ahead

The implementation of the new direction of Health Advisory Councils (HAC 2.0) is something Council is excited about. As part of HAC 2.0, we will host two community events that are co-designed with AHS. This will be helpful in our goal to build more awareness of the Council with the public. As a result of increased awareness, we hope to see more public attendance at our meetings so we can gather feedback and provide more meaningful contributions to the health system.

We've been quite pleased to have had Deb Gordon, Vice President and Chief Health Operations Officer, present at our meetings over the years. We thank Deb for her commitment to listening to feedback from our HAC and we welcome Isabel Henderson, Interim Chief Zone Officer of Health Operations, as a member of the AHS leadership team that helps support our Council.

The Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council is well-represented across many areas of diversity - age, gender, culture, subject matter expertise and family life stages. However, geographic representation is still needed from surrounding Edmonton areas such as St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Spruce Grove, Leduc and Stony Plain. See page six for information on how to apply.

Council looks forward to learning what's new in health care in the coming year. It will use the opportunity to continue work on its goal of sharing information about AHS programs and services with communities.



GEHAC members attending the Federal Funding Announcement at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

*The Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (HAC) provides our Zone with a forum to receive lived experience on a variety of healthcare issues. By conveying the voice of the diverse communities and populations they represent, HAC members play a key role in the planning of services in our Zone.*

Isabel Henderson  
Interim Chief Zone Officer – Edmonton 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](http://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [greateredmonton@ahs.ca](mailto:greateredmonton@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 Health Advisory Council webpage: [ahs.ca](http://ahs.ca)
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern
- Provide input on various health care topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

