

# Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health  
Services**

Lesser Slave Lake  
Health 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 Terri Rosser, Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council



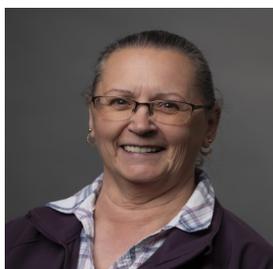
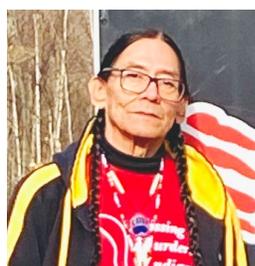
This year we recruited new members to our Council and elected a new Chair and Vice Chair in April. We also set our commitments and priorities for 2023-26 and will be busy moving them forward.

With Council attending regular strategic planning meetings involving the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone Leadership and the Council Coordinator, as well as regular Health Advisory Council public meetings, an open dialogue between AHS and Council was improved and information was then related back to the communities. This proved to be extremely important during the wildfire season when community members felt they could reach out to Council members for resources that are available to them that

may help them cope with the loss or evacuation during this wildfire season.

It's been a hard year for many people in our area due to the wildfires. We wish everyone all the best and hope to connect with more public in the year ahead.

# OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



*Top L-R: Terria Rosser (Chair), Lorraine Muskwa (Vice Chair), Calvin Badger, Kevin Buffalo,  
Row 2 L-R: Fay Cardinal, Susan Giesbrecht, Robin Guild, Jennifer Horsnall  
Row 3 L-R: Richard Mifflin, Shane Pospisil, Ann Stewart, Norman Wang  
Missing: Edna Boucher*

**“** *It has been my pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. Our Council members are dedicated, community builders who are committed to healthcare in the North. I am appreciative of the diversity of opinions and experience that our Council members share leading to rich dialogue and discussion on topics that truly matter to those of us living in the North.*

**Stacy Greening**

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

# FACTS AND FIGURES



## Council Member Representation

Cadotte Lake  
High Prairie  
Joussard  
Slave Lake  
Wabasca

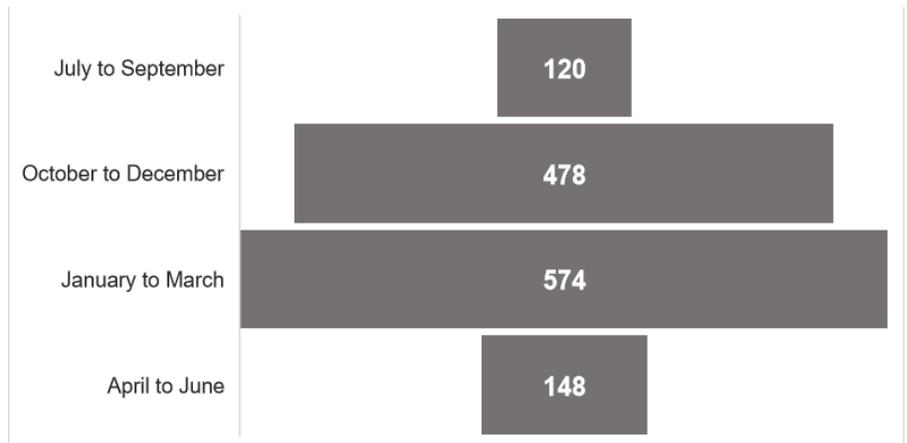


## By the numbers

Participation at LSLHAC meetings & events:

- 3** public meetings
- 30** public attended
- 1** engagement event
- 60** public attended
- 4** new members recruited

## Provincial participation at Advisory Council meetings & events\*



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

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

- ✓ LSLHAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. With just under 100 members of the public in attendance at our meetings and events over the last year, we look forward to seeing more participation in the year ahead as we build on connections made through these conversations.
- ✓ Council continued building relationships through regular strategic planning meetings between the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Council Coordinator. These crucial touchpoints ensured consistent and open dialogue between AHS and Council, improving feedback to communities.
- ✓ Council hosted presentations at our public meetings on a variety of timely healthcare topics including [MyHealth Records](#) and the new AHS Provincial Mental Health and Justice team's initiatives (i.e., [AHS ID program](#)). We also learned about the North Zone [Indigenous Health Program](#), including the innovative [Indigenous Support Line](#).
- ✓ Together with the True North and Peace HACs, and in partnership with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), LSLHAC hosted a joint virtual moderated panel discussion highlighting how rural and remote northern Alberta communities can grow the next generation of healthcare providers.

## 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 Immun- ization 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

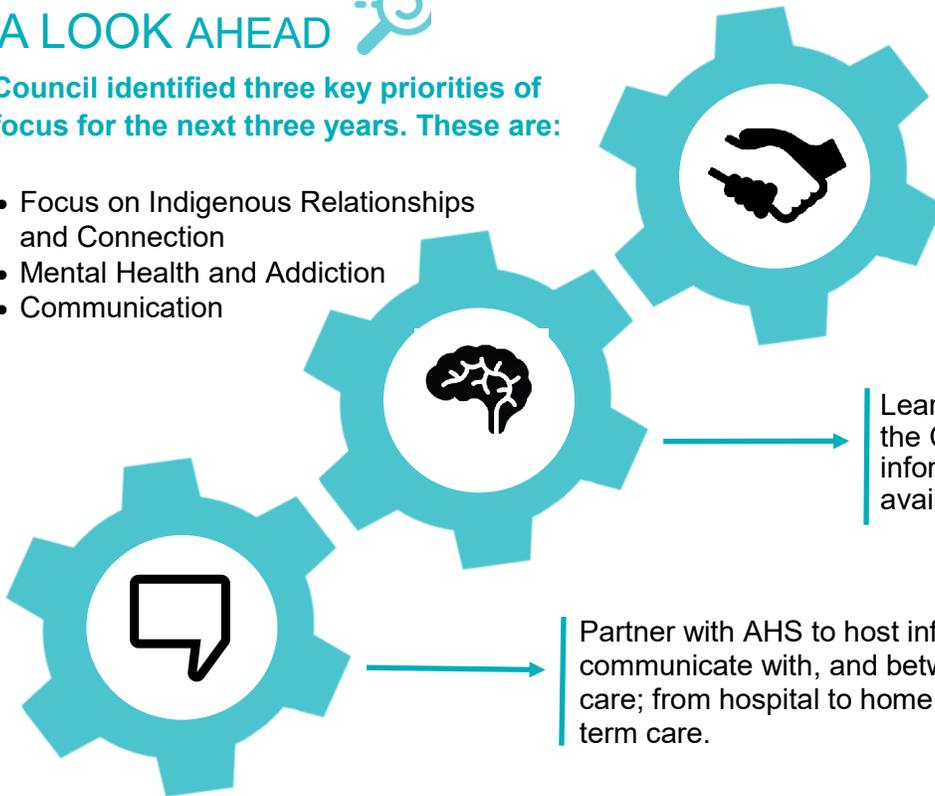
Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Providers Access Policy.

## A LOOK AHEAD

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

- Focus on Indigenous Relationships and Connection
- Mental Health and Addiction
- Communication

**LSHAC commits to:**  
Host a presentation on cultural sensitivity and actively invite AHS, local leaders and influencers to attend.



Learn about mental health resources in the Council area and assist in sharing information about access and services available, within their communities.

Partner with AHS to host information sessions on how to communicate with, and between, the various levels of care; from hospital to home care or from hospital to long term care.

## GET INVOLVED

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

- Email: [lesserslavelake@ahs.ca](mailto:lesserslavelake@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**

