

# Palliser Triangle

## 2019-20 Annual Report



Palliser Triangle  
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**

## Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



*Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn*

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.

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, Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council



*Reg Radke*

As local community representatives, our Council members continue to bring health challenges and successes to the attention of AHS – both through AHS South Zone leadership and the Community Engagement team. As well, through feedback into their respective communities, updated information and new initiatives from AHS. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of retiring Council members – Sarah Armour, Diane McNaughton, Marjorie Moncrief, Patty Rooks and Dr. Ken Sauer.

Council members have been challenged by how to provide input and feedback into the AHS Review and of course most Council activities have been overtaken by discussions and actions around the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Council would like to recognize the hard work of Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and the South Zone leaders and frontline staff on their control and treatment efforts.

Sincerely,

Reg Radke, Chair  
Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council

## Who we are

The Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council (PTHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [region](#) surrounding Medicine Hat. The full list of [membership](#) can be found online.



*L-R: Reg Radke, Angie Traill, Paul Nederveen, Andrea Ames, Pat Dietrich, Lorrie Clizbe, Blake Pedersen  
Missing: Ajit Atwal, Ron Wikson*

## Highlights

### Location of Meetings

- Oyen, Medicine Hat, Brooks & virtually
- 29 members of the public attended

### Engagement

- Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) steering committee
- Indigenous Patient Navigation Project

### Media Coverage

- Oyen Echo
- Brooks Bulletin

*We rely on our HAC members to keep us informed on what is occurring in our communities that relate to health, and for advice on how to approach health care system challenges that affect our community members. The HAC's are extremely valuable to the health care system.*

Dr. Katherine Chubbs  
Chief Zone Officer – South Zone

## Key achievements of 2019-20

This year, the PTHAC work plan focused primarily on enhancing interactions with local communities, and bringing forward the public’s feedback to AHS.

In 2019 we saw the terms of several long-standing and originating members of Council come to an end. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Ken Sauer, Patty Rooks, Dr. Sara Armour, Diane MacNaughton and Marjorie Moncrieff for their years of commitment to our Council.

Council continued building its relationship with AHS by holding bi-monthly meetings with Chairs, the South Zone Chief Zone Officer and our Advisory Council Coordinator. These were strategic planning touchpoints that ensured consistent and open communication. Our Chairs also participated in the AHS Review on behalf of the HAC.

Throughout the year we shared our Top Concerns with the AHS Board, for its broad understanding of issues across the province. We have identified addiction and mental health (prevention, intervention, accessibility); health system navigation and integration, palliative and hospice care; rural delivery of healthcare; health promotion.

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

- Promotion of immunization clinic openings. This resulted in AHS releasing its 2019 campaign earlier in the fall
- AHS website navigation improvements; specifically, to the palliative care page. This resulted in AHS’ plans to engage members further on suggested improvements
- Wait times and access to mental health services, emergency department, allied health services, specialists
- Virtual health technology as a means of meeting with health professionals, particularly for rural areas
- Feedback on home care services, Supportive Living in Medicine Hat and on witnesses to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)
- Need for collaboration and partnership among government ministries to address the social determinants of health as this leads to overall health function

### Presentations

<b>AHS Presentations</b>	<b>Public/Community Presentations</b>
<i>AHS Addiction and Mental Health needs assessment</i>	Rural Home Care Services
<i>AHS Organizational Review</i>	Foundation updates – Big Country Foundation; Brooks & District Health Foundation; Acadia Foundation
<i>Virtual Health Services</i>	Brooks & District Seniors Outreach Society
<i>Zone Updates – COVID-19 pandemic; operational plan</i>	PTSD & Newcomers Research Project (Brooks)
	Santi SurgiCentre – Chronic Pain Treatment
	Medicine Hat & Area Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition

## A look ahead

Council is looking forward to 2020-21. Implementation of the new direction of Health Advisory Councils (HAC 2.0) is expected to begin in the fall, where community events will be embedded into our annual planning cycle. Events will be co-designed with AHS and will be a partnership with Zone leadership. Work is underway to determine the nature of these events.

Recruitment will continue to fill vacancies, with particular emphasis on regions surrounding Medicine Hat such as Redcliff, Seven Persons and Bow Island. See page six for information on how to apply.

Council will connect with Provincial Advisory Councils and the Wisdom Council to learn about their work and priorities, and determine where there are opportunities to partner. It will also participate in local community events such as the Sunshine Home & Garden Show in Medicine Hat in March 2021.

We will continue working with community partners in health such as Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), the Palliser Primary Care Network (PCN) and local health foundations by encouraging their participation at our meetings. In addition, local Mayors and Reeves, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups will be invited to attend our public meetings.

Our HAC plans to learn more on topics of interest focusing on seniors' health services and Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). We will also provide input to the palliative care section of AHS' website and invite Zone leads to participate in a working session, where we'll further discuss alignment of priorities.



*Reg Radke (Chair) with parting members (L-R) Dr. Sara Armour, Dr. Ken Sauer and Diane MacNaughton. May 2019.*

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](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [pallisertriangle@ahs.ca](mailto:pallisertriangle@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](https://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.



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