

True North

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,
Chair, Community Engagement Committee, AHS Board



Message from the Chair, True North Health Advisory Council



Nella Fehr

I am pleased to submit our 2021-22 True North Health Advisory Council annual report.

This last year has been a challenging one. With public health restrictions and it being a busy year, our Council had less opportunities to connect. Despite this, we brought our communities together virtually through a Community Conversation about the Alberta Healthy Living Program.

Being a small Council, one of our goals this year is the recruitment of new members, so we can be even more effective in informing AHS about our local perspective and about our community needs.

We wish for all our communities to stay strong and continue to support one another. I look forward to a positive and productive year ahead with TNHAC.

Sincerely,

Nella Fehr
Chair, True North Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The True North Health Advisory Council (TNHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the [geographic area](#) near Rainbow Lake and Paddle Prairie. [Visit us online](#) for a full list of membership.



Top L-R: Nella Fehr (Chair), Richard Cartier (Vice Chair), Wilma Cardinal

Bottom L-R: Liane Mercredi (past Chair), Jan Welke

Missing: Judith Wiebe, Pam Bose (past member), George Fehr (past member), Jessica Juneau



Liane Mercredi at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2021-22

True North HAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. We look forward to increasing participation as we diversify and broaden awareness of our Council in the year ahead.



We hosted a presentation about Hepatitis C, partnering with Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO+). Attendees learned how the virus affects almost 350,000 Canadians, how many don't know they have the virus, how to be screened and how ECHO+ is working towards prevention for Albertans and a cure for the disease.



We hosted a community engagement event showcasing Alberta Healthy Living Program workshops available in the North Zone. Those in attendance engaged in robust discussion about promotion and delivery of this excellent programming to Albertans, to further increase engagement and accessibility.



Council continued building relationships with AHS via strategic planning meetings among the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Advisory Council Coordinator. These touchpoints ensured consistent and open communication throughout the year.



Over the year, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was a topic of interest among Albertans across the province. TNHAC participated in an EMS Listening Session where Council and local community members engaged in dialogue about recent EMS service changes within our communities. We appreciated the opportunity and look forward to continuing to provide feedback in the future.



In May 2022 members attended the annual Advisory Council Forum in Edmonton. This year's forum provided an opportunity to participate in an Indigenous Workshop, and to learn about asset-based community development, virtual health, AHS opioid resources, allyship and many other topics. Council used this opportunity to network with other Advisory Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and establish new partnerships.



Council continues to seek members from rural and Indigenous communities in the area to help represent its large geographic region. [Apply to join Council here.](#)

A look ahead

For the coming year, Council plans to focus on connecting with communities in the Council area, encouraging community members to share their insights on important healthcare issues. Meetings are also an opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest. Council will also co-host a community engagement event in collaboration with AHS, inviting community stakeholders to participate and learn more about local health initiatives.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Recruitment to fill vacancies. Representation is needed from rural and Indigenous communities to ensure diverse perspective of our Council area.
- Focusing on mental health and addiction resources by connecting with community leaders or organizations to learn their perspectives and share resources.
- Hosting or participating in an education session on Indigenous health to become better informed on how to become an ally.
- Ongoing work with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) to learn about rural community needs, and to promote stronger attraction and retention of healthcare practitioners in the North Zone.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.

Council continues to value and grow current and new partnerships in health. Relationships with partners like Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) and local health foundations are invaluable. Council appreciates the connection with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups.

Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have contributed immeasurably to our pandemic response while also sharing key information with our communities. The Councils have also successfully engaged hundreds of Albertans while shifting to virtual community events. I applaud their ongoing efforts to remain connected.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. I have always found Council members to be dedicated, true community builders, and strong voices for healthcare throughout the North. They are passionate and bring a diversity of opinions and experiences, which makes for rich dialogue and discussion. We are grateful for their time, advice and collaboration with AHS North Zone leaders.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Stacy Greening

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

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.

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/advisorycouncils.
- 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.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ truenorth@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

