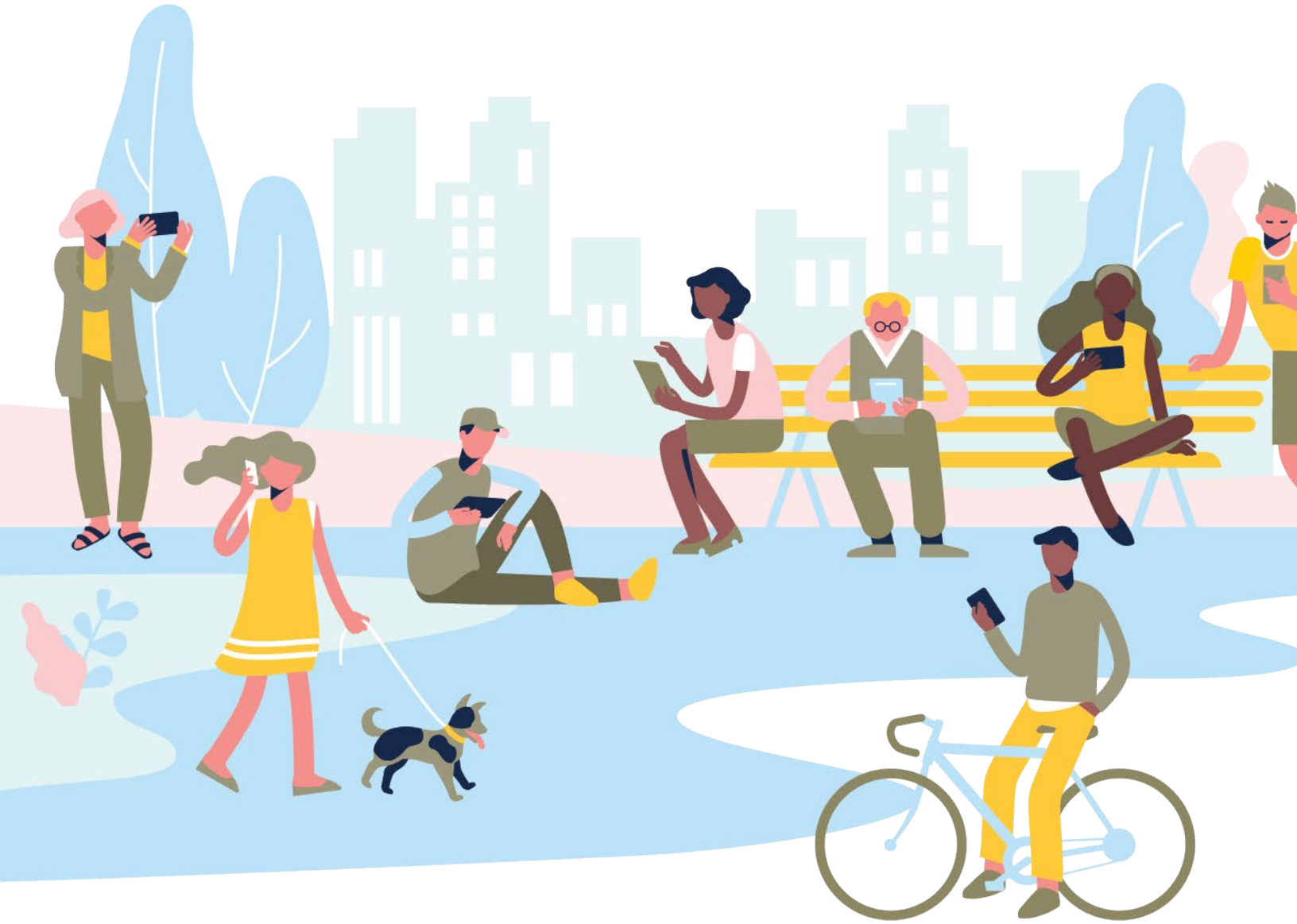


Cancer

Provincial Advisory Council

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, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council



Wendy Plandowski

On behalf of the Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) for Cancer, I would like to commend all those involved in healthcare in our province for their tenacity over the past year. To the volunteers, the supporting staff members and the healthcare professionals, we cannot thank you enough for the combined effort to get us through the pandemic.

This year we saw the departure of our previous Chair, Mr. Brad Gillespie, who has been a wonderful supporter of advisory councils across Alberta, and an engaged leader for the Cancer PAC. Our sincerest thanks Brad for a job well done!

As an advisory council, we are eager to learn at each meeting from the various supporting team members and agencies supporting cancer care in Alberta. 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 remarkable leadership and assistance over the past year.

Sincerely,

Wendy Plandowski
Chair, Cancer Provincial Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Cancer Provincial Advisory Council is comprised of up to 18 volunteer members from across the province who are experts in cancer-related fields, have a loved-one touched by cancer, or are cancer survivors. We provide advice on service delivery, system policies, strategies, planning, and sustainability for a province-wide cancer system.



*Top L-R: Leanne Anderson, Wanda Redel, Brad Gillespie, Wally Sinclair
Middle L-R: Mark Armstrong, Marilyn Hundleby, Wendy Beauchesne, Lorri Winship, Andrea DeYoung, Jill Bernhart
Bottom L-R: Sheena Clifford, Diane Huband, Melissa Smith, Wendy Plandowski, Ernie Grach
Missing: Courtney Kerrigan*



Tara Baker (Tamarack HAC) and Andrea DeYoung (Cancer PAC) at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.

Highlights



Subcommittee Participation

- Cancer 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

- New Chair and Vice Chair were appointed for a one-year term.
- Appointment of an expert member for a two-year term has taken place
- Reappointment of four members has taken place.
- Five members have decided not to renew for another term or resign from the Council.
- Recruitment to fill vacancies in North and South Zones has been underway.





Key achievements of 2021 – 22

Presentations that enhanced our understanding of cancer services or provided an opportunity to provide input and feedback included the following:

Ambulatory Oncology Patient Experience Survey - Dr. Linda Watson, Scientific Director, Applied Research and Patient Experience, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)

Virtual Care in Cancer - Dr. Dean Ruether, Associate Senior Medical Director and Dr. Linda Watson, Scientific Director, Applied Research and Patient Experience, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)

Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative – Lorelee Marin, Co-Chair, Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Steering Committee and Don Wood, Co-Chair, Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Engage to Design Working Group

Wellspring Edmonton and Calgary - Dr. Marilyn Hundleby, Program Director, Wellspring Edmonton and Sheena Clifford, Chief Operating Officer, Wellspring Calgary

Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines - Dr. Elizabeth Kurien, Medical Lead, Provincial Tumour Teams and Xanthoula Kostaras, Manager, Guideline Utilization Resource Unit, Cancer Care Alberta (AHS)



Members were invited to provide input and feedback into:

- Strengthening Indigenous Cancer Care Action Plan
- Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program
- Research project with University of Calgary, Screening Programs and Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre to assess cancer screening status among First Nations people
- Raising public awareness of the Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning initiative
- Grateful Patients – Foundations Engagement consultation session
- Transition of lab services in Alberta



The Cancer PAC revised its Bylaws and Terms of Reference to align and be consistent with other Advisory Councils. These updates outline the Councils objectives, functions, and duties as well as identify the role and responsibilities of members and AHS.

Members revisited the work commitments for 2021-2023 to ensure focus remained on the four goals of information sharing, engagement, providing advice, and continuously improving the Councils effectiveness.



Meetings connected members in Edmonton, Calgary, Wabasca, Lac La Biche, Stettler, Drayton Valley, Lloydminster, Foremost, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Vulcan.

A look ahead

Council has developed a robust 2021-2024 Commitments and Priorities Plan in which members commit to:

- **Share and provide information** through their respective networks.
- **Engage Albertans** and bring more voices to the conversation.
- Make a difference and **improve the experience of Albertans** diagnosed with cancer by seeking opportunities to provide advice to AHS to improve access and services.
- **Self-assessment and continuous improvement** of the Council.



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

Interim Senior Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta

Brenda Hubley

Chief Program Officer, Cancer Care Alberta

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.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for two- or three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ pac.cancer@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

