

# Cancer Provincial Advisory Council 2019-20 Annual Report



Cancer Provincial  
Advisory Council

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

## 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, Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

The composition of the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) has changed over the last year with the end of the terms of Drs. Tony Fields and Heather Bryant, as well as those of Ken Landry and Lorelee Marin. I would like to thank these members for their valuable contributions and wish them well. We have been successful with recent recruitment of public members from the North, Central, South and Calgary Zones and look forward to their participation on the Council.



*Dr. Margaret Churcher*

Numerous presentations have increased the understanding of current and upcoming cancer issues. In particular, those of Dr. Alain Tremblay (lung cancer) and Dr. Linda Watson Ambulatory Oncology Patient satisfaction Survey (AOPSS) were very useful to the PAC.

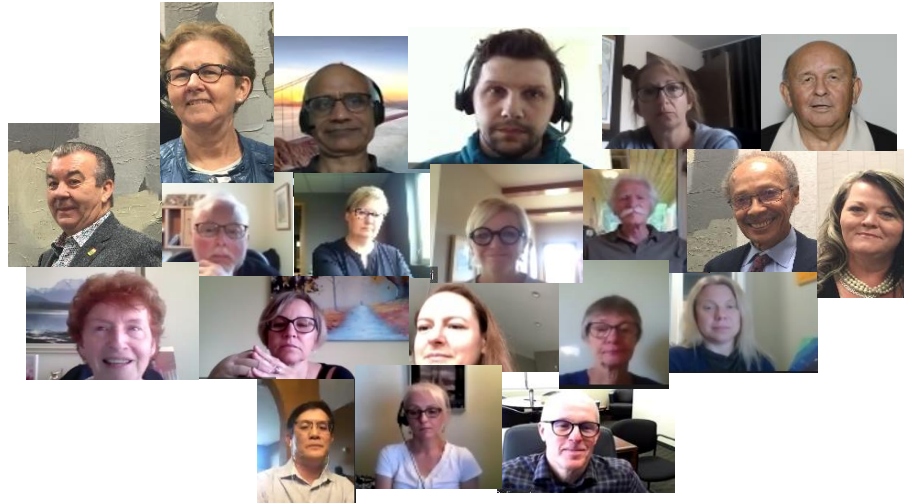
The Council is extremely grateful to our AHS Executive leads, Permanent Resource Persons, Administrative Support and AHS Community Engagement who have provided invaluable contributions to the work of Council.

Sincerely,

Dr, Margaret Churcher  
Chair, Cancer Provincial 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, program design, and sustainability for a province-wide cancer system. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



*L-R back: Dr. Heather Bryant, Varinder Bhullar, Tim Buckland, Leanne Anderson, Wally Sinclair  
L-R second Row: Ken Landry, Brad Gillespie, Wendy Plandowski, Patti Morris, Ernie Grach, Dr. Tony Fields, Lorelee Marin  
L-R third Row: Dr. Margaret Churcher (Chair), Andrea DeYoung, Wanda Redel, Lorri Winship, Chelsea Draeger  
L-R front: Dr. Huiming Yang, Brenda Hubley, Dr. Matthew Parliament  
Missing: Martin Dugas, Bryson Brown*

## Highlights

### Presentations

- Cancer Research Analytics
- Care Closer to Home & Virtual Health Initiative
- Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program
- CAR T-Cell Therapy
- Oncology Patient Satisfaction Survey
- Calgary Cancer Centre Project

### Subcommittee Participation

- Indigenous Cancer Strategy
- Cancer SCN Core Committee
- Virtual Health
- Provincial Breast Health Navigation Initiative

### Recruitment

- Four originating members terms came to an end
- Recruited five new public members and one expert member
- Meetings connected members in Edmonton, Calgary, Wabasca, Lac La Biche, Stettler and Vulcan

## Key achievements

- Presentations that enhanced our understanding of cancer services or provided an opportunity to provide input and feedback included the following:
  - **Cancer Research and Analytics – Strategic Framework** - Dr. Paula Robson, Scientific Director Cancer Research & Analytics, CancerControl Alberta (AHS)
  - **Care Closer to Home Strategy** - Dr. Dean Ruether, Associate Senior Medical Director, CancerControl Alberta (AHS); Donna Rose, Director of Planning, CancerControl Alberta (AHS)
  - **Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program** - Dr. Alain Tremblay, Co-lead, Alberta Thoracic Oncology Program (AHS) & Principal Investigator, University of Calgary/Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program Research Study
  - **Calgary Cancer Centre Project** - Joanne Aime, Senior Project Director, Calgary Cancer Project (AHS)
  - **Indigenous Cancer Strategy** - Debora Allatt, Manager, Education and Patient Experience, CancerControl Alberta (AHS)
  - **CAR-T Cells, Cell Therapy and Immune Therapy** - Dr. Michael Chu, Medical Oncology, Cross Cancer Institute(AHS); Director, Alberta Cellular and Immunotherapy (ACIT) & Medical Director, Alberta Cellular Therapy Manufacturing (ACTM)
  - **Understanding the Cancer Patient Experience: Exploring the Provincial Ambulatory Oncology Patient Satisfaction Survey (AOPSS) Data 2018-19-** Dr. Linda Watson, Scientific Director, Applied Research, Patient Experience (AHS)
- Dr. Tony Fields presented to the Council of Chairs in June the key achievements and future opportunities for the Cancer PAC. He also emphasized the importance of interaction between the Advisory Councils and Wisdom Council.
- Council joined in a discussion regarding the AHS Review recommendations and next steps with CancerControl Alberta leadership.
- Several members participated in stakeholder engagement sessions hosted by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer on the 2019-2029 Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control. Feedback will be used to inform implementation of the strategy.
- Three members participated in the launch of the CancerControl Alberta Indigenous Strategy which brought together AHS, First Nations and Métis leaders with community members for a day of relationship building and development of themes for moving forward.
- Council provided feedback on the CancerControl Alberta 2019-20 Operational Plan.
- Consultation and feedback was provided into the revised Dental Program for Cancer Patients Policy.
- A member attended The Canadian Cancer Research Conference (CCRC) which brings together the Canadian cancer research community, to learn more on the latest developments and to enhance patient involvement in cancer research.
- Guidance, support, and personal knowledge from a cancer perspective were provided into the Calgary Zone Indigenous Health Action Plan by a PAC member.

## A look ahead

We reviewed the **2019 Annual Survey** results for the Cancer PAC and have established some concepts to increase our participation in completing the survey.

**Recruitment** will be taking place to fill three vacancies in the coming year, including the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair for the Cancer PAC.

Continue to **learn** about and **enhance relationships** with other Advisory Councils and Wisdom Council by promoting the Cancer PAC, inviting members to our meetings and engaging and networking at the Spring Forum.

We will work to **encourage public attendance** at our Cancer PAC meetings by reaching out to people within our communities and increasing social media visibility.

Undertake a **review** of the **Cancer PAC structure** and look for **efficiencies** and **maximize the opportunity for the Council**.

*The work of the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council has never been more important than now, in these challenging times. Members of the Council unfailingly provide perspectives that truly reflect the patient and family experiences of Albertans facing cancer. We are blessed and humbled to serve alongside our dedicated Council members – past, present and future.*

Dr. Matthew Parliament, Senior Medical Director  
Brenda Hubley, Chief Program Officer, CancerControl Alberta

# About the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

## Quick facts

- 18 volunteers with either lived experience with cancer or with special professional or administrative expertise relevant to cancer
- Council meets four times a year in-person or virtually
- Represents perspectives of urban and rural Albertans
- Identifies opportunities to improve quality, access and sustainability of cancer services in Alberta for AHS Board, CEO, and Executive Leadership

## Get involved

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

✉ Email [pac.cancer@ahs.ca](mailto:pac.cancer@ahs.ca)

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

