



## Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council Commitments and Priorities 2023 - 2026

Goals		
<b>Advisory Council Goals</b>	<p><b>The Council will receive regular updates and overview of progress from Provincial Seniors Health &amp; Continuing Care leadership and the AHS Official Administrator/Board to ensure we are best serving our seniors and continuing care clients/residents and their families.</b></p> <p><b>The Council commits to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build awareness of the Council’s roles and responsibilities to the public.</li> <li>• Provide a vehicle for consumers and communities to identify existing and emerging seniors and continuing care healthcare issues that can be shared with AHS program leadership and AHS Board.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for AHS to work with the Council to share information about AHS seniors and continuing care services and programs with communities.</li> <li>• Provide advice to AHS on ways to improve quality, access and sustainability of seniors and continuing care health services in Alberta.</li> </ul>	
Theme	Priorities and Commitments	Tracking
<b>Promotion of Community Wellness</b>	<p><b>The Council commits to promote and advocate for health system integration where housing, congregate living and community support programs are coordinated under the single umbrella of community wellness. In doing so the Council will seek to better understand the levels of care within the continuing care system (i.e., home care, designated supportive living, long-term care), funding models, and the range of services offered at the community level.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will seek to better understand these topics by inviting presentations from AHS and, where appropriate, partner organizations.</li> </ul>	<i>2023, 2024, 2025, 2026</i>



Theme	Priorities and Commitments	Tracking
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will provide advice to AHS on communication materials to support public understanding/ awareness (i.e., external materials and websites).</li> <li>• Council will continue to support consideration for social determinants of health when defining personal and healthcare services within the continuing care system.</li> </ul>	
<b>Support for informal caregivers</b>	<p><b>The Council recognizes and celebrates the support informal caregivers provide within the continuing care system. Whether provided by family members, volunteers or community agencies, these informal supports save the health system money and support quality of life for seniors and other individuals who access the continuing care system in the province. Council will continue to support these caregivers and AHS by learning and building awareness among members and community of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of continuity of care (i.e., early discharge without the right community support is a major issue).</li> <li>• Policies that are in place to support quality care.</li> <li>• Costs covered by the health care system and by the individual.</li> <li>• Sources of funding and programs for Indigenous Peoples (i.e., health care is federally funded but services are often integrated with provincial).</li> <li>• The role of home care in supporting family caregivers / informal caregivers.</li> </ul>	<i>2023, 2024, 2025, 2026</i>



Theme	Priorities and Commitments	Tracking
<b>Empathy and communication</b>	<p><b>While process, procedure and health service and accommodation standards are critically important, members of the Seniors &amp; Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council believe empathy and communication are the foundation for quality care. As such, the Council will work to bring its voice and the voices of Albertans into the conversation to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities to enhance communication among professional caregivers, informal caregivers, and all Albertans on standards of care.</li> <li>• Build recognition that not all Albertans are able to use or access services in the same way and may need unique support to address their needs (i.e., not all will have the same understanding of technology and may need extra support/help).</li> <li>• Address ageism and gender bias where appropriate by supporting and advising on the use of language and behaviours.</li> </ul>	<i>Ongoing Activity</i>
<b>Increasing public awareness of the Seniors &amp; Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council</b>	<p><b>Increase Council visibility across the province to enable more input from the public – gather information from our communities, networks, areas, and bring it forward to AHS. Council will achieve this by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Councils’ visibility through active engagement with community members and inviting them to public Seniors &amp; Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council meetings.</li> <li>• Share information about the Council through local community groups and organizations with interest in continuing care and community wellness (i.e., local service clubs, volunteer groups, community service providers, local media, etc.).</li> <li>• Collaborate with other AHS Advisory Councils.</li> <li>• Active social media participation, following AHS accounts and sharing information through personal social media accounts, where comfortable doing so.</li> </ul>	<i>Ongoing Activity</i>