

Seniors and Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council 2019-20 Annual Report



Seniors and Continuing
Care Provincial
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, AHS Community Engagement Committee of the Board

Message from the Chair, Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council



Ray Clarke

Our Council has completed a full year of work on a number of tasks, three of which I consider particularly productive.

First, members have committed to gather local issues and bring these for discussion with our AHS permanent resource supports. In due process, recommendations and sharing may be presented to the AHS Board as required.

Second, Council approved a biannual nomination and election process for Chair and Vice Chair. This process encourages members to become more deeply involved in the Council and its work.

Third, is the establishment of a working relationship with the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council Chair through the Council of Chairs meetings. The interest in shared efforts is welcomed, and will result in a greater understanding of the needs of our aging communities and of sexual and gender minorities.

Thank you to my fellow Council members for their efforts to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Clark
Chair, Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council

Who we are

The Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council (SCC PAC) is comprised of 15 volunteer members with lived continuing care system experience, each of whom are passionate about improving continuing care service quality, accessibility and availability. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).

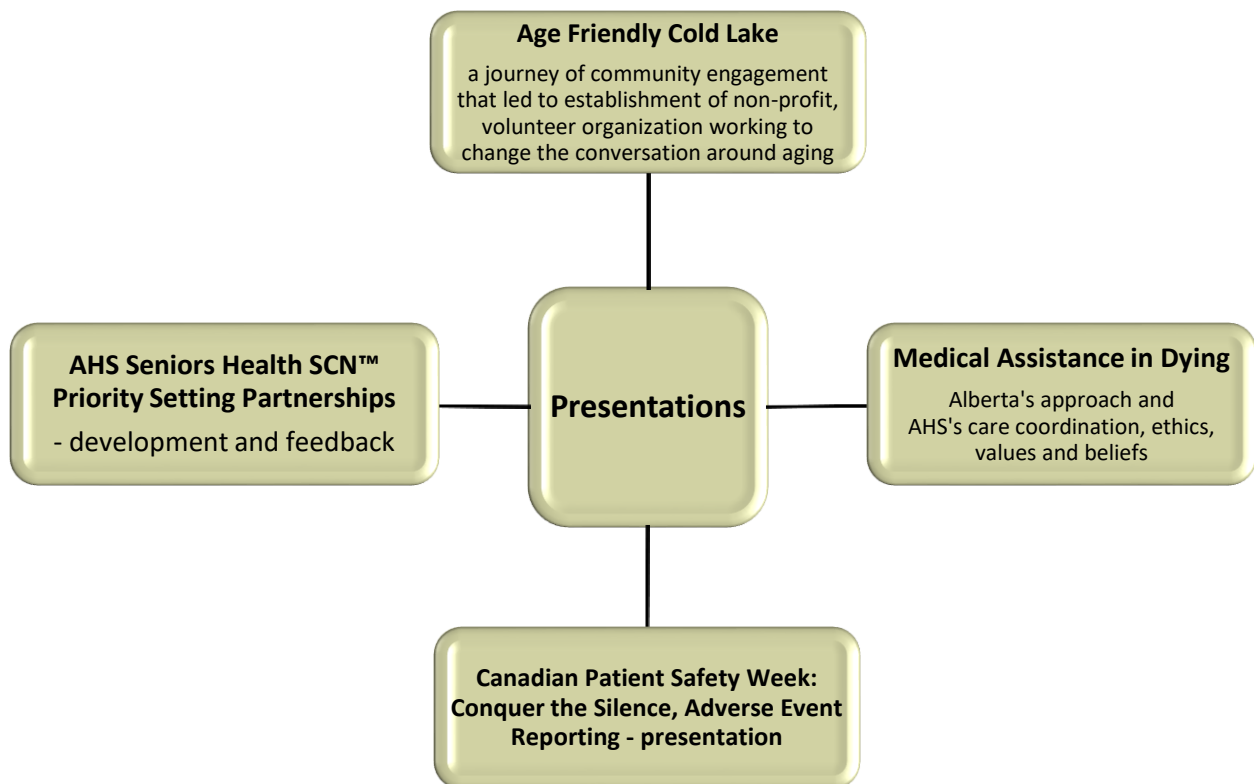


L-R Back: Lou Henderson, Fred Bosma, Ray Clark, Della Robertson

L-R Front: Jim Hubbard, Julie Kelndorfer, Susan Sommerfeldt, Diahann Polege-Aulotte, Joan Monson, Gabrielle Kirk, John Erkelens

Missing: Linda Grant, Irene Pirie, Teresa Willigar, Judy Long

Highlights



Key achievements of 2019-20

The SCC PAC, in an advisory role, considers existing and emerging issues from the continuing care community service-user's perspective. We make recommendations to the AHS Board, CEO and Executive Leadership on system-level opportunities to improve continuing care services provision and access for Albertans. We strive to capture lived experience and ensure patients and families are at the centre of all health care activities, decisions and teams. We participated in the following events:

- Attended *Vision 2030 for Seniors Services Symposium* conference in Edmonton, November 2019
 - This symposium brought together seniors-serving sectors to inform the future of services for Alberta's aging population.
- Attended *Diverse Voices 19th Family Violence Conference and Pre-Conference day focused on Elder Abuse* in Edmonton, November 2019
 - This conference focused on various types of elder abuse and how diagnoses and caregiver reliance lend to the issue.
- Attended *AHS Review Recommendations and Next Steps for Seniors & Continuing Care and Addiction & Mental Health Provincial Advisory Councils*, February 2020.
- Appropriate Prescribing and Medication Use Strategy for Older Albertans - [Dusty's Story: How Much is Too Much?](#)
- Alberta Continuing Care Facility Directory development and feedback provision – see www.ahs.ca/continuingcare for additional information.
- Represented continuing care system-access perspective on:
 - AHS Provincial Continuing Care Policy Review and Implementation Panel
 - AHS Medical Equipment and Supplies Working Group
 - AHS Continuing Care Appeals Panel
 - AHS Home Care Development Steering Committee
 - AHS Seniors Health SCN Appropriate Prescribing and Medication Use Strategy for Older Albertans Working Group
 - AHS Advanced Care Planning/Goals of Care Review Working Group
 - Integrated Housing and Health Support Strategy Best Practice Review: Housing Model for Young Adults with Physical Disabilities Working Group
 - AHS Edmonton Zone Continuing Care Client Family Advisory Council
- Throughout the year Council shared its Top Concerns with the AHS Board to enhance understanding of issues within the continuing care system. Examples include: care and support in the community; transition-of-care planning; and education for Albertans about continuing care and how the system functions. Impact of COVID-19 on landscape of continuing care recognized.

A look ahead

Through 2019 Council supported AHS activities to expand community-based services for Albertans requiring continuing care. We undertook activities focused on improving public access to information about Home Care and congregate living services through the design and launch of the AHS Continuing Care Facility Directory (www.ahs.ca/continuingcare).

Looking forward, we will seek to further develop understanding of continuing care at the system level. Having achieved a number learning goals outlined in the 2019-20 Work Plan, we will look to expand our advisory activities to best support safe and sustainable growth within Alberta's continuing care system.

In 2020 we will endeavour to grow virtual meeting skills and work to develop new and varied ways to connect, build and expand relationships.



Anyone interested in applying to the **AHS Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council** can do so through the [AHS website](#).

The Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council provides Alberta Health Services with a forum to receive lived experience advice on seniors and continuing care issues in the best interest of Albertans throughout the province. Members plan an active role in much of the work being done provincially, including contributing their perspective on many working groups related to seniors and continuing care issues, where they bring the voice of their constituents.

Dr. Jim Silvius
Provincial Medical Director, Seniors Health

About the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council

Quick facts

- 15 volunteers with lived experience with seniors and continuing care
- Meets quarterly
- Represents perspectives of urban and rural Albertans
- Studies issues related to the seniors and continuing care community
- Responds to requests for stakeholder input and feedback from the system access perspective related to continuing care
- Recommends opportunities to improve quality, access and sustainability of publicly funded continuing care services in Alberta

Get involved

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ cc.pac@ahs.ca

☎ 1-877-275-8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



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