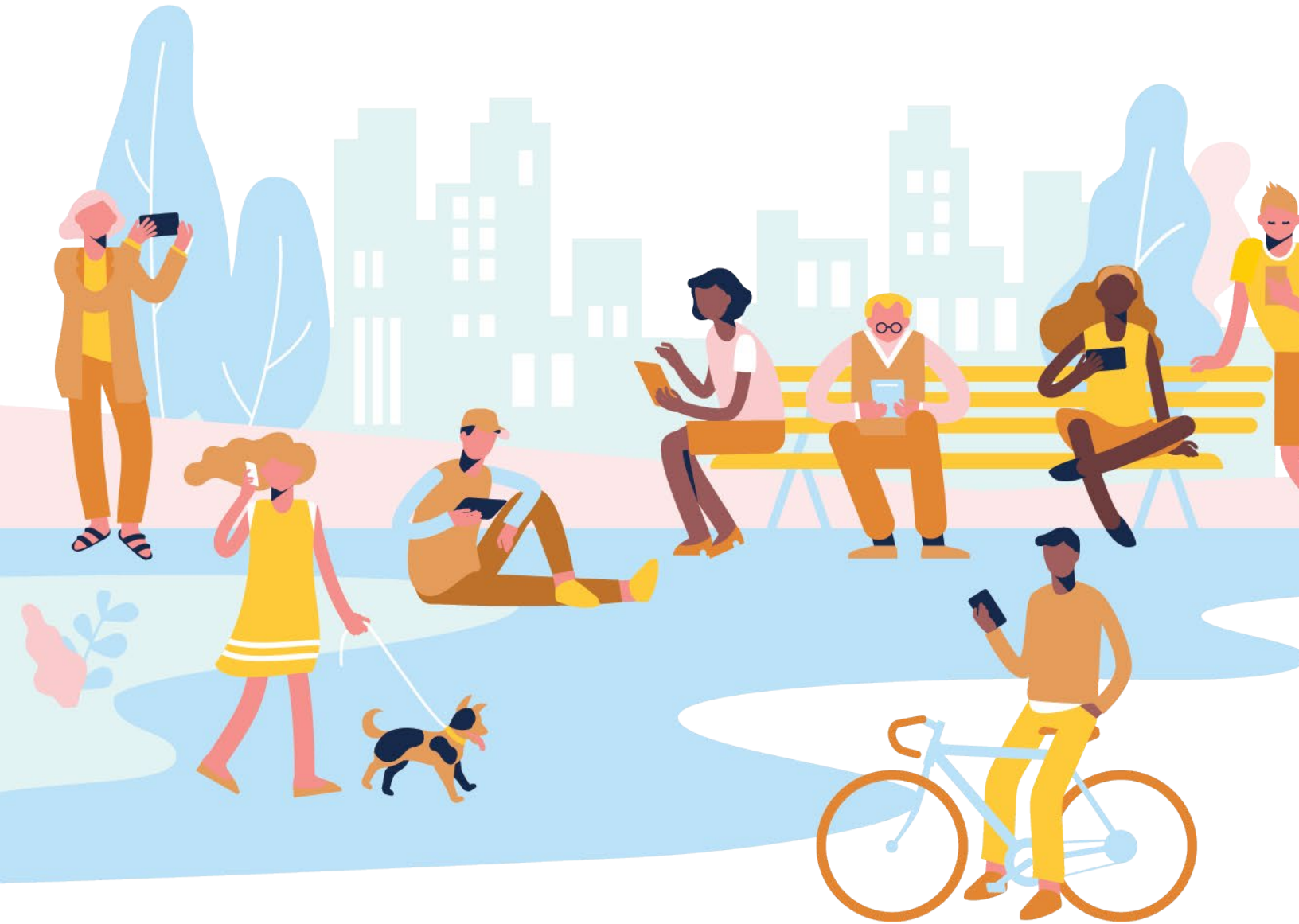


# Greater Edmonton

## 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, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council



*Floyd House*

Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (GEHAC) has had a remarkable year as we've all felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with everyone across the province.

We have been actively reaching out to our communities and AHS leadership, despite pandemic restrictions, by bringing engagement sessions to communities via online means. Meeting new people has been harder and hearing all the stories that are out there, but we continue to enlarge our networking capabilities through communities, other agencies, individuals, and groups that reach out to us to tell us their concerns and success stories.

We continue to look forward to doing more for Albertans and being their voices as we move forward with our Council activities.

Sincerely,

Floyd House  
Chair, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council



## Who we are

The Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council (GEHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) including and surrounding the city of Edmonton. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



*Top L-R: Donalda Farwell, Floyd House, Harman Kahlon, Jahnavel Schez Noguez (departed), Janice Willier  
Bottom L-R: Kavis Reed, Maria Melizza Carino, Shakib Rahman, Towunmi (Priscilla) Coker, Vincent Liu  
Missing: Nazret Russon, Nick Polturak  
Terms ended in 2021-22: Rume Djebah, Kailey Schmidt*



# Key achievements of 2021-22

In the midst of the COVID pandemic, GEHAC stayed committed to providing input to AHS to better understand community-based perspectives on health services. We were very pleased to see 162 members of the public attend our general meetings and community conversations.



Council co-designed two virtual Community Conversations during the year: one on the [opioid response](#) and the other on [Healthlink 811](#). We learned about drug poisonings in the area and across the province, and how to address stigma. We also gained an understanding of what AHS is doing in response to the opioid crisis (health promotion and prevention), as well as information on access to services and supports. Speakers with lived experience shared their stories which was invaluable as it personalized the realities of the ongoing crisis.

The Community Conversation on Health Link 811 informed us that during the pandemic, many people opted out of accessing healthcare as regularly as they needed, for various reasons. We learned about Healthlink in Alberta and how to access different health services through it.



As COVID-19 remained on everyone's radar, Council continued to receive updates, attend virtual COVID-19 Community Conversations for the Edmonton Zone and obtained resources to share with their networks. We also learned about post-COVID work underway in the Edmonton Zone, how AHS managed COVID-19 outbreaks and resources available to help.



In addition to our general meetings and engagement sessions, GEHAC participated in the following:

- Held seats on the new Edmonton Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council
- Participated in a focus group re the RFP (Request for Proposals) for orthopedic chartered surgical facilities (CSF)
- Participated in a workshop on procurement planning for Home Care
- Participated in a focus group on the development of a Social Accountability Framework for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- Participated in a focus group with AHS Ethics and Compliance on revisions to the Code of Conduct

AHS Community Engagement held its annual Advisory Council Forum in May 2022. The event was held in Edmonton over two days. Themed as 'Bridging Communities,' sessions included AHS experts and award-winning external speakers on timely topics such as Indigenous health, mental wellness, virtual health, opioid resources, and allyship in healthcare.

## A look ahead

Council is excited for the 2022-23 year, to engage more and connect with community partners. We will continue to host general meetings and engagement sessions, as well as network and partner with local healthcare services in local communities. This will provide more opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest, as we commit to providing the grassroots voice of the community to AHS.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Focusing on mental health and addiction resources – connecting with various community leaders and organizations to learn their perspectives, understanding gaps in service, promoting programs, and sharing resources. We have a particular interest in connecting with schools, younger adults, and adolescence through a partnership with AHS' Addiction and Mental Health team.
- Sharing information about seniors and continuing care programs and services and learning more about the needs of communities in our area.
- Gaining more insight on racial and cultural minority barriers to health services through engagement opportunities and dialogue with varied stakeholders and communities.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.

In 2021-22 we had some membership changes as some members terms came to an end, and others left to pursue other opportunities. We were pleased to welcome four new members that will enhance the diversity on Council – Donalda Farwell, Maria Melizza Carino, Vincent Liu and Kavis Reed.

*The Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council is a tremendous partner for the Edmonton Zone (EZ) in healthcare service provision and planning. GEHAC has had a very successful 2021-22 and has continued to be innovative in both providing information about AHS to EZ communities, and garnering input through thoughtfully planned public meetings. The support and advice the HAC provides us on our planning, programs, and services are invaluable and will be critical to the EZ Health Service Plan, which is on track to be completed in 2021-22. We have become very adept at conducting HAC work using a virtual model but are very much looking forward to the opportunity to meet in person in the upcoming year, to continue our ongoing journey in partnership with the GEHAC and EZ communities.*

**Carol Anderson**

Chief Zone Officer, Edmonton Zone

**Dr. David Zygun**

Zone Medical Director – Edmonton 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](https://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](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [greateredmonton@ahs.ca](mailto:greateredmonton@ahs.ca)

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

