



HEALTH COALITION

OF ALBERTA

Annual Report

2019



WHO WE ARE

The Health Coalition of Alberta started in 2006 as an alliance of voluntary health sector organizations, consumer groups and individuals with common health issues and concerns. By 2014 the Coalition had formalized into a registered non-profit society. The diversity of the Health Coalition of Alberta's membership base reflects a wide variety of diseases and conditions, ages, populations and genders. Through the strength of our membership we will be consulted with, and listened to, when decisions are made that impact the health of Albertans.

The Health Coalition has 100 individuals committed to working together and advocating with a united voice for better access to optimal healthcare for all Albertans. Members have identified three priority areas: patient/stakeholder engagement in healthcare discussions/decisions; improving access to care for all Albertans; and, improving access to medications for all Albertans. The Coalition works to achieve these priorities through primary initiatives like education of members and the public, raising awareness regarding healthcare reform decisions and service changes which could impact Albertans, particularly patients in their care pathways, as well as advocacy on key healthcare access issues.

Through ongoing engagement of our membership in activities that align with our mandate and principles the Health Coalition of Alberta Society is able to bring the voice of patients and their caregivers to represent our positions on common health and healthcare issues.

Our MISSION

We are a coalition of voluntary sector organizations, groups and individuals advocating with a united voice for better access to optimal healthcare for all Albertans.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

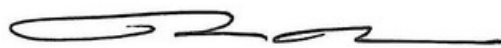
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Health Coalition of Alberta's annual report for 2019. We are very proud of the outstanding work completed during a year with both provincial and federal elections, which will be outlined in our Executive Director's report. Our members asked the Health Coalition to move from educating others to become advocates to being a leader in driving action in Alberta. The structural changes we have made over the past few years enabled us to demonstrate this shift to our members in 2019.

Through all our activities last year, we saw our numbers grow as we topped 100 members. I want to welcome new members and thank everyone for your commitment to the Coalition. The Health Coalition of Alberta's strength is in our collective voice and knowledge. Your lived experience as patients, caregivers, educators and advocates shapes our priorities.

In 2019 we implemented changes to create a more resilient and flexible organization. We were able to secure gift-in-kind support from Microsoft Canada to move to a cloud-based record keeping system and host the majority of our Board meetings online. These moves have built an infrastructure that opens our Board recruitment to members through-out Alberta and even to Alberta-serving organizations headquartered outside the province. Our Board of Directors membership remained stable through 2019 but we will see a few Directors reach the end of their terms in 2021. It is vital for the Health Coalition to build capacity as well as bring new skills, expertise and ideas to our Board in order to carry on our essential work. I encourage all members to consider joining the Board of Directors. Although we are open to any member stepping forward to our Board, our skills analysis showed we need to recruit Directors with a legal or fund development background. Please feel free to contact any of our Directors to find out more about this rewarding and important volunteer role.

Finally, I would like to thank our members, donors and gift-in-kind supporters for their ongoing contributions. Between increased financial support and administrative efficiencies, we were able to end the year with a slight surplus. Although we have a small budget, every contribution makes a difference in our ability to advocate for improved healthcare in Alberta.

Respectfully submitted



Bruce West
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2019 was an exciting year for the Health Coalition of Alberta as we leveraged two election campaigns to drive discussion around our advocacy priorities. Thanks to input from our members, we were proactive in leading the most encompassing election campaigns in our history.

We developed election kits for members, conducted advocacy trainings, hosted an all-party forum, distributed our advocacy priority positions to all parties, as well as distributed updates to members summarizing platforms, providing contact information, event details, etc. In partnership with one of our members, Canadian Cancer Survivor Network, we surveyed all provincial parties on key questions and secured a commitment from the United Conservative Party to consult with patients regarding national pharmacare participation.

It was a year full of active engagement with government, politicians, external stakeholders, and, of course, our valued members. We increased our public speaking engagements, welcomed new members, strengthened our outreach with both federal and provincial politicians and began the work of introducing our Coalition to a new government. Although it was hectic, we were able to raise awareness and gain some commitments on our advocacy priorities: access to care; access to medications; and, patient engagement.

Of course, work carried on outside of election campaigns. Some other key deliverables achieved in 2019 include:

- Delivered two pre-Budget submissions to Government and all parties
- Presented at the Alberta Lung Cancer Continuum Consensus Forum
- Provided input in the AHS Review
- Produce content and design for our website re-launch (happening in 2020)
- Submitted feedback to the Red Tape Reduction panel
- Met with Alberta Health repeatedly to discuss access to biologics/biosimilars to promote educated and informed patient choice for both
- Met with PMPRB staff for a briefing and discussion on the proposed Guidelines

Thank you to all members for providing guidance, expertise and sharing your story as we work together to ensure the patient voice is heard in Alberta.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Kidd
Executive Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Health Coalition of Alberta Society's Financial Statements for the 2019 fiscal year.

The Health Coalition of Alberta ended the year with a strong cash reserve of \$74K and recognized \$92.5K in total revenues. This is largely due to the great relationships built with the community and steady efforts by the Executive Director which increased the corporate sponsorship program, recognizing a 13% increase from the prior year for a total of \$90K. Membership revenue more than doubled in 2019 bringing the fees back to normal volumes at \$2.5K, compared to 2018 which incurred changes in the membership categories delaying the membership campaign.

Overall expenditures of \$79K for 2019 are down 13% from the prior year. More notable decreases in expenditures were related to website development and the Executive Director. There have been delays into 2020 for completing the new website causing the final payment expected for 2019 to be paid in 2020. The fees for the Executive Director appear lower in 2019 as 2018 included a residual payment from the prior year. With the strong year for 2019, the Health Coalition of Alberta was able to increase the hours per week for the Executive Director in the last quarter of the year, increasing the total fees paid. This was offset by savings in reduced travel expenses. Lower expenditures in 2019 were also due to savings in changing the platform for virtual administration to Microsoft Office 365 which significantly advances the Health Coalition of Alberta's abilities to operate virtually more effectively and efficiently. Further savings were experienced by the Board of Directors primarily conducting virtual meetings thus reducing meeting and travel expenses.

The Health Coalition of Alberta recognized an operating surplus of \$13K in 2019. The last payment for website development of \$4.6K that was expected for 2019 would have reduced the surplus to \$8.4K, still presenting an overall balanced financial year.

The Health Coalition of Alberta's financial statements for 2019 will be provided to all voting members and shared at the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Knutson
Treasurer

2019 CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Funding from our Corporate Supporters helps the Health Coalition of Alberta to focus on achieving our strategic plan and our mission. We thank all our Corporate Supporters for their commitment to ensuring patients are included in healthcare decisions.

GOLD:

Pfizer Canada Inc.

SILVER:

Celgene Inc.

GSK

Innovative Medicines Canada

Janssen Inc.

Merck Canada Inc.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

BRONZE:

AbbVie

GIFT IN KIND:

Canadian Cancer Society

Microsoft

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Bruce West



Bruce West is a continuing care advocate. He retired in October 2013 after five years as Executive Director of the Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA), a voluntary, non-profit advocacy organization that represents the owners and operators of long term care and supportive living facilities, and the providers of home care and home support services throughout Alberta. Prior to his time with the ACCA Bruce had a 30-year career with the Government of Alberta where he held a number of senior management positions related to Alberta's housing and continuing care systems. Bruce has particular interests in promoting high quality and sustainable seniors housing, health care and continuing care to enhance the quality of life of Albertans.

Vice-President Teren Clarke



Teren is the former CEO with Spinal Cord Injury Alberta (SCI) and Executive Director of the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation. She is an ongoing member of the Strategic Clinical Network for the Neurology, Rehabilitation and Vision with AHS; Executive Committee for the North American SCI Consortium; and the Canadian SCI Care Advisory Committee. Teren was with SCI Alberta since 2005. Prior to that, she worked with Muscular Dystrophy Canada between 1993 and 2005 in roles including National Director of Programs, Prairies Executive Director and Provincial Services Director. Teren earned a BN from the U of C and a Masters in Management from McGill University.

Treasurer Karen Knutson



Karen is the founder of Active Coaching Inc. and works with professionals to help them gain control over their personal and professional finances. She is based out of Calgary, Alberta and is a CPA - Chartered Accountant with a Masters in Professional Accounting. Karen has over 15 years of experience in corporate accounting, finance and leadership roles, and has served as a director and treasurer on various not-for-profit boards. Her previous role was Manager External Reporting & Internal Controls for WestJet. Karen is also a health and wellness enthusiast working towards a transformational nutrition coaching certification.

Secretary

Angeline Webb



Angeline Webb is Regional Manager of Health Policy and Health Promotion with the Canadian Cancer Society where she has been engaged in health policy advocacy and health promotion for the last 15 years. She develops, implements, and administers public health advocacy and health policy development initiatives and health promotion programming for the Canadian Cancer Society in the Prairie and Northern regions as well as at the federal level. Angeline's focus is healthy public policy and chronic disease prevention with most of her attention devoted to tobacco reduction policy development.

Member-at-Large

Joan King



Joan King is the Government Relations and Advocacy Director for Diabetes Canada in Western Canada. Joan has been a long-time patient advocate working for Diabetes Canada and with health coalitions and partner health charities. Joan has worked with hundreds of volunteers in advocating the positions and policies of Diabetes Canada to the Canadian public, governments, non-government organizations and the media on behalf of the diabetes community in Canada. Following the completion of her business and commerce degrees, she worked at Youth Empowerment and Support Services (formerly Youth Emergency Shelter Society) in Edmonton and has been with Diabetes Canada for 22 years.

Member-at-Large

Fraser Hall



Fraser Hall is a Services Specialist a for Muscular Dystrophy Canada. In that role he supports individuals and their families who are affected by neuromuscular disorders, by helping navigate health care systems, community supports, recreation opportunities and financial aid. He also advocates for patient rights, caregiver supports and accessibility issues. He also has a background working with individuals with special needs and outdoor Education.

Member-at-Large

Darlene Gallant



Darlene has worked in the health care field for 35 years. Since the death of her husband, she has become an advocate for those with Pulmonary Fibrosis/Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and their families.

She is also a patient advisor with the Respiratory Strategic Clinical Network. Darlene currently serves on the board with the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation and with Breathe the Alberta/NWT Lung Association. Four years ago, she started a Support Group for those with Pulmonary Fibrosis/Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Three years ago, she started the Edmonton Pulmonary Fibrosis Association, now under the

umbrella of the Lung Association.

Member-at-Large

Shirley Duia



Shirley is a post-secondary education student at the University of Alberta studying Physiology. Shirley has been passionate about health care from a very young age. Her mother is a family physician and a role model for Shirley. Her ambition is to enter medical school and become a doctor. Shirley is a volunteer ER attendant at the Misericordia Hospital where she aids nurses and provides assistance to patients and visitors. She also volunteers as at Villa Caritas and provides support to seniors. Her volunteer experience includes special events like the Heritage Festival and Walk for Seniors as well as helping at the Mustard Seed kitchen.

Shirley's goal is to learn about other aspects of health care, including how to enable easily accessible health care for all.

Executive Director

Beth Kidd



Beth has 25 years of experience in developing, directing, and implementing patient advocacy, government relations, public relations, and marketing strategies. Beth has spent the majority of her career in the health charity sector although she came to the Health Coalition of Alberta from the corporate world. Beth is a life-long volunteer with many charities, political parties and community groups. Currently, she is a member of Research Canada's Board of Directors and a member of CADTH's Patient and Community Advisory Committee.



OUR MEMBERS

Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health
Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD)
Alberta Community Council on HIV
Alberta Continuing Care Association
Alberta Council on Aging (ACA)
Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association
Alberta Pituitary Patient Society
Alberta Senior Citizens' Housing Association (ASCHA)
ALS Society of Alberta
Alzheimer Society of Calgary
Alzheimer Society, Alberta and Northwest Territories
Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada/Network of Rare Blood Disorders
Arthritis Society Alberta and NWT (The)
Autism Society of Edmonton Area
Brain Care Centre
Canadian Association for Porphyria (The)
Canadian Association of Pompe
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
Canadian Liver Foundation
Canadian Mental Health Association Edmonton Region
Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Division
Canadian Psoriasis Network
Canadian Spondylitis Association
Caregivers Alberta
CARP Calgary Chapter
CARP Edmonton Chapter
Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta
CNIB AB & NWT/ Vision Loss Rehab
Creekside Support Services Ltd
Crohn's and Colitis Canada
Cystic Fibrosis Canada - Calgary & Southern AB Chapter
Cystic Fibrosis Canada - Edmonton & Northern AB Chapter
Diabetes Canada
Easter Seals Alberta
Edmonton Down Syndrome Society
Epilepsy Association of Calgary
Fibromyalgia Society of Edmonton and Area
Gastrointestinal Society - Canadian Society of Intestinal Research
Health Arrows
Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta, NWT & Nunavut
HIV Community Link - Calgary & Medicine Hat
HIV Network of Edmonton
Huntington Society of Canada
Kidney Foundation of Canada - Southern Alberta Branch
Kidney Foundation of Canada- Northern Alberta & Territories
Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern AB Branch
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada
Lung Association - Alberta and NWT
Lupus Society of Alberta
M.E. Society of Edmonton
March of Dimes
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada - Alberta & NWT Division
Muscular Dystrophy Canada - Prairies & NWT
Myeloma Alberta Support Society
Osteoporosis Canada - Alberta Chapter
Parkinson Association of Alberta
Save Your Skin Foundation



Schizophrenia Society of Alberta
Seniors Community Health Council in
Alberta on Aging
Southern Alberta Myeloma Patient Society
SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association
(SWESA)
Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association
of Northern Alberta
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
Turning Point Society
Ups and Downs - Calgary Down Syndrome
Association
Voice of Albertans with Disabilities
John Bachnyski
Tim Battle
Ganive Bhinder

Rick Brick
Mary Chibuk
Shirley Duia
Darlene Gallant
Rayne Johnson
Joan King
Kathy Kovacs Burns
Karen Knutson
Rita Lyster
Jeff MacKay
Austin Mardon
Larry Pempeit
Catherine Ryan
Katie Soles
Kathy Watson
Bruce West

Our MANDATE

The mandate of the Health Coalition of Alberta Society is to advocate for people-centered healthcare in Alberta. Through the strength of our membership we will be consulted with, and listened to, when decisions are made that impact the health of Albertans.

Contact Us:
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