



HEALTH COALITION

OF ALBERTA

Annual Report 2025: Patients, Policy, and Perspectives



WHO WE ARE

The Health Coalition of Alberta is an alliance of health charities, patient groups, non-profit organizations, and individuals driven by a unified purpose. Through the strength of our membership, we have voice and influence into public health decisions that impact the health of Albertans.

Formed by a group of volunteers in 2006, the Health Coalition of Alberta formalized as a registered non-profit society in 2014. Our membership base quickly grew to one of the largest advocacy coalitions of this kind in Canada; more than 130 members inform our work.

We use a collaborative, solution-focused approach to engage with governments, health policy decision-makers, and other stakeholders to achieve our goals.

We recognize that, for many reasons, not all users of the health care system choose to be referred to as patients. However, we use this collective term to positively reinforce the concept that the health care system must be effective for each person in care regardless of the services they receive or where they are served. It also differentiates the unique voice of people with lived experience from health care providers and other professionals.

The Health Coalition of Alberta purpose is to advocate for the adoption of a relational model of care that is centered on patient needs to achieve their full health potential. We support shared decision-making between the health care team and educated and informed patients to make choices that will have the most impact on not only the health but also the emotional and social needs of every person.

We achieve our purpose by: advocating on key health care issues; educating our members and the public so they can engage effectively with the health care system; and, by raising awareness and stimulating dialogue around health care policy and service changes that impact Albertans.

Our VISION:

We envision a health care system where all Albertans have an equitable voice and access to services needed to achieve their full health potential.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking back on 2025, I am struck by the pace of change across Alberta's health system. As health responsibilities expanded across government and new issues emerged, the Health Coalition of Alberta's (HCA) Board of Directors focused on guiding the organization through this evolving environment, while also on preparing for the future.

Directors spent considerable time examining HCA's role within an increasingly complex health policy landscape, discussing organizational capacity, governance renewal, and how the Coalition can continue to provide value to members while remaining responsive to emerging issues spread across multiple ministries, agencies, and organizations. These conversations helped lay the foundation for the organization's future direction and priorities.

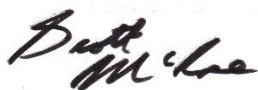
The Board continued its multi-year policy review process, and welcomed two new directors, Patti Saluk and Fatima Khan. Directors also completed a Board skills assessment to help guide future recruitment and ensure the Board continues to reflect the breadth of experience needed to support the Coalition's work. As expectations of HCA continue to grow, the Board devoted considerable attention to the capacity, resources, and leadership needed to sustain the organization and support its growing role within Alberta's evolving health system.

The Board remained committed to sound financial stewardship throughout the year. Thanks to the support of our members and supporters, HCA maintained a strong financial position while continuing to expand its activities and respond to emerging issues affecting Albertans.

The Board also continued to focus on succession planning and governance continuity. Following Fatima Khan's resignation, the Board recruited and appointed Edward Dunn to fill the vacancy, as permitted under our bylaws. The Board subsequently elected Edward to serve as Treasurer. We are grateful for his willingness to contribute his time and expertise to the Coalition.

I would like to thank our members, supporters, partners, staff, and volunteers for their continued commitment to the Health Coalition of Alberta. I would also like to recognize my fellow Directors for the expertise and thoughtful leadership they contribute throughout the year. Together, we strengthen the Coalition's ability to support patients and caregivers, contribute to health policy discussions, and respond to the evolving needs of Albertans. I look forward to the opportunities ahead as we continue to build on this foundation.

Respectfully submitted



Scott McRae
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As Alberta's health system continued its transformation in 2025, one thing became increasingly clear: understanding the system was becoming almost as challenging as navigating it. The creation of four health ministries, four provincial health agencies, and several new health organizations fundamentally changed how health care is governed and delivered in Alberta. Responsibilities became distributed across multiple entities, making it increasingly difficult to understand where decisions were being made, who was accountable, and how changes would affect Albertans seeking care.

In response, the Health Coalition of Alberta focused on helping members stay informed and identify where patient perspectives needed to be heard. As new legislation, policies, agencies, and service delivery changes emerged, we worked to ensure our members had the context needed to navigate an increasingly complex health policy environment.

One of the greatest strengths of HCA continues to be our members. Your experiences, expertise, and willingness to share what is happening within your communities provide invaluable insight into how system changes are affecting Albertans. These perspectives help shape our priorities, strengthen our advocacy, and ensure our work remains grounded in the realities of patients and caregivers.

This was particularly evident in our work on immunization policy and vaccine access. As Alberta introduced major changes to its COVID-19 immunization program, concerns emerged regarding eligibility, affordability, delivery, and equitable access. Working alongside many of our members, we met with elected officials, government staff, and health system leaders to raise concerns and share patient experiences. While challenges remain, government ultimately expanded eligibility for public coverage. These changes demonstrated the value of coordinated advocacy and the impact that can be achieved when patient organizations work together.

The pace of change extended well beyond immunization policy. HCA monitored and responded to developments involving drug coverage, rare disease policy, disability supports, continuing care, diagnostics, and significant legislative changes affecting how health services may be delivered and accessed in Alberta. This included ongoing analysis of proposals related to private delivery, private payment options, and physician billing, as well as their potential implications for patients.

Patient engagement remained a central part of our work in 2025. In addition to contributing patient perspectives through consultations, advisory committees, and policy discussions, HCA increasingly helped connect members with opportunities to participate in engagement activities. We remain committed to supporting meaningful engagement that reflects the experiences and expertise of patients and caregivers.

The Coalition continued to grow throughout the year as new organizations and individuals found their way to HCA. Through webinars, Coffee Catch Ups, policy briefings, and regular updates, we provided opportunities for members to learn from one another and stay connected during a period of significant change. We also continued to participate in national discussions related to pharmaceutical policy, evidence-informed decision-making, regulatory modernization, and health system sustainability, helping ensure Alberta patient perspectives were represented in conversations that influence access to care across Canada.

Internally, 2025 was also a year of transition. Following the departure of Jaymee Maaghob, the Coalition operated with limited organizational capacity for much of the year while managing an expanded volume of advocacy, policy analysis, and government relations work. Despite these challenges, HCA remained responsive and financially stable. The experience also provided an opportunity to reflect on the skills, expertise, and capacity needed to support the Coalition's future growth and sustainability.

I would like to thank Jaymee Maaghob for her contributions to the HCA. During her time with the Coalition, Jaymee played an important role in supporting the Board of Directors, as well as our communications, member engagement, and organizational projects. We are grateful for her dedication and commitment to the HCA and look forward to seeing the continued impact of her work with the GI Society and across the patient advocacy community.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Health Coalition of Alberta in 2026, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I would like to thank our members, corporate supporters, partners, Board of Directors, and volunteers whose contributions make this work possible. The health system will continue to evolve, and new challenges will undoubtedly emerge. Yet our role remains clear: to help ensure patient perspectives are heard, to support members in navigating change, and to work collaboratively toward a health system that is equitable, responsive, and centered on the needs of Albertans.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Kidd
Executive Director

Our GOALS

1. Foster a strong coalition.
2. Deliver member & public education.
3. Champion health equity.
4. Amplify patient & caregiver voice.
5. Promote a relational model of care.
6. Improve access to medications & medical devices.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Advocacy & Policy Development:

In 2025, the Health Coalition of Alberta balanced planned advocacy priorities with the need to respond rapidly to emerging issues affecting patients and caregivers. A significant focus was Alberta's COVID-19 immunization program. HCA responded to major changes in vaccine eligibility and delivery through policy analysis, engaged directly with Ministers, MLAs, senior officials, and aligned stakeholders, and kept members informed through briefings, webinars, and advocacy resources that supported equitable vaccine access. While challenges remain, the province expanded eligibility for public coverage for many Albertans.

The Coalition continued to monitor emerging health policy and access issues affecting Albertans. This included health system restructuring, changes to public drug programs, implementation of the national Pharmacare framework, rare disease policy, medication reimbursement processes, and the potential impact of proposed United States tariffs and Canadian countermeasures on medication access and affordability. As developments occurred, HCA provided members with timely updates, analysis, and opportunities for discussion to support informed advocacy and decision-making.

HCA also developed and distributed a federal election toolkit that included issue summaries, position statements, and information on party commitments related to vaccine access, pharmacare, and health system priorities.

Government & Political Engagement:

As Alberta's health system restructuring moved into implementation, HCA remained actively engaged with government, agencies, and decision-makers. The Coalition attended government briefings, consultations, stakeholder sessions, and public engagement opportunities while maintaining regular dialogue with elected officials, senior government staff, and health system leaders.

HCA monitored developments across Alberta's four health ministries, four provincial health agencies, and associated organizations, helping members understand how policy and operational changes could affect access to care. The Coalition also provided feedback on emerging issues involving public health, primary care, diagnostics, medication coverage, and health system accountability. Significant effort was also devoted to monitoring and assessing the implications of Bill 11 and the expansion of physician dual practice in Alberta as well as self-referral for medical imaging. HCA gathered patient and member perspectives, shared information, and analysis with members, and raised questions related to access, equity, continuity of care, and the potential impact on the public health system.

Strategic Relationships & Collaboration:

The Health Coalition of Alberta continued to strengthen relationships with partners across Alberta and Canada to ensure patient perspectives were represented in evolving policy discussions. For example, the HCA remained involved with the Institute of Health Economics, including participation in the Health Technology Innovation Platform Steering Committee and the Outcomes-Based Agreement Working Group, and played an ongoing role within the Resilient Healthcare Coalition.

HCA contributed patient perspectives through presentations, guest lectures, stakeholder forums, and provincial and national events. During the year, HCA delivered the annual patient advocacy lecture for University of Alberta pharmacy students and presented to medical students at both the University of Alberta and University of Calgary. HCA also participated in the planning and facilitation of Novartis' Patient Impact Day. Additional engagement included ongoing involvement with Canada's Drug Agency, Innovative Medicines Canada, PMPRB, pCPA, academic partners, and health researchers. These activities helped raise awareness of patient priorities among future health professionals, researchers, industry leaders, and health system decision-makers.

Membership Activity & Growth:

Membership continued to grow organically in 2025, increasing from 125 to 136 members as new organizations and individuals joined the Coalition.

HCA delivered four major member webinars: *Revolution to Evolution: Access Reimagined Through Patient Insight*; *Beyond the Shot: mRNA's Role in Today's Treatments and Tomorrow's Cures*; *An Update on Alberta's Health Transformation Journey*; and *From Promises to Patients: Canada's Health Care Roadmap*. Coffee Catch Ups continued to provide opportunities for peer learning, information sharing, and discussion of emerging issues affecting members and the patients they serve.

Members also received regular briefings and analysis related to health system restructuring, vaccine policy, medication access, and emerging legislative changes, helping organizations understand and respond to issues affecting their communities.

Communications & Public Education:

Providing timely, accessible information remained a key priority in 2025. HCA distributed regular member updates and policy briefings covering emerging developments affecting patients and caregivers. HCA also developed vaccine access fact sheets and advanced work on an educational paper addressing antimicrobial resistance. The Coalition continued to maintain its website and social media presence. Communications efforts focused on translating complex policy developments into practical information that members could use in their own advocacy and engagement activities.

Operations & Organizational Capacity:

Despite operating with limited organizational capacity for much of the year, HCA successfully delivered its planned work while responding to multiple emerging advocacy priorities. The organization maintained a strong financial position, supported ongoing governance and Board activities, and continued to strengthen internal administrative processes.

The challenges and opportunities of 2025 also informed future planning related to organizational capacity and sustainability. These efforts helped position the Coalition for continued growth and responsiveness as Alberta's health system continues to evolve.

Our ACTIONS:

- Advocate on key health care issues.
- Educate our members and the public so they can engage effectively with the health care system.
- Drive awareness and dialogue about policy and service changes impacting Albertans.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Health Coalition of Alberta Society's Financial Statements for the 2025 fiscal year.

In the statement of financial position, the Health Coalition of Alberta ended the year with a strong net asset position of \$274K.

In the statement of operations, revenues of \$167.7K were recognized in 2025, a decrease of \$3.6K or 2 per cent from the prior year. Revenue included \$153.0K in corporate support, \$3.3K in membership fees, \$7.2K in honorariums, and \$4.2K in interest income. The modest decrease in revenue was primarily attributable to lower corporate support, partially offset by honorariums received during the year.

Overall expenditures of \$104.6K for 2025 represented a decrease of \$14K or 12 per cent from the prior year, primarily reflecting lower contracting expenses during the last half of the fiscal.

The Health Coalition of Alberta experienced an operating surplus of \$63K for 2025, reflecting careful budgeting, cost efficiencies, and the timing of certain activities that will be supported by existing resources in early 2026. Throughout the year, expenditures remained aligned with organizational priorities. This surplus further strengthens the Coalition's financial position and provides a solid foundation to support planned activities in 2026.

As required for registered non-profit societies in Alberta, the 2025 financial statements were reviewed by the internal reviewers elected by the membership at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, Jeff MacKay, and Heather Templeton.

The Health Coalition of Alberta's financial statements for 2025 will be provided to all voting members and shared at the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Dunn
Treasurer

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 health care decisions.

GOLD:



SILVER:

AbbVie Corporation
GSK Canada
Gilead Sciences Canada
Innovative Medicines Canada
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine
Moderna, Inc.
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Sanofi Canada

BRONZE:

Eisai Limited
Hoffmann-La Roche Limited

GIFT IN KIND:

Resilient Healthcare Coalition
Microsoft Canada
Canva

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Scott McRae



Scott McRae works in the health charity sector after prior jobs as a writer and woodworker. Scott graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and currently lives in Calgary.

Vice-President Jeff MacKay



Jeff has been a patient his whole life and has the scars to prove it. In the process, he learned the importance and necessity of patient advocacy and experienced just how effective patient focused health care can be.

A transplanted bagpiper from the east coast, Jeff takes his triplets to hike and play in the mountains every chance he gets. Professionally, Jeff enables team-based and patient-inclusive care with technology and privacy compliance support as the Director of Marketing at Brightsquid Secure Communications Corp. Working with providers, administrators, and patients throughout Alberta and beyond has given Jeff a unique understanding of the challenges faced by everyone involved.

Secretary Heather Templeton



Heather began her healthcare career in 2008 as a Licensed Practical Nurse in long-term care and hospice. She then received her master's in leadership and ministry. Prior to her career in nursing, she worked in seniors' lodges and her desire to work with seniors grew. She has also worked for the Alzheimer Society of Calgary in their Club 36 program.

Heather is the Advocate Training and Education Coordinator at Open Arms Patient Advocacy. She is a presenter and member of the planning committee of Dying with Dignity Calgary. In all her roles, ensuring the resident or patient was treated with dignity and respect is vital.

Treasurer Edward Dunn



Edward retired in early 2021 following nearly 36 years with a major oil and gas company, preceded by six years in the mining sector. His primary area of expertise was the economic evaluation of investment opportunities, including the development and application of financial and economic models to support capital decision-making.

In addition, Ed served for approximately 12 years as Treasurer of a non-profit organization, where he was responsible for overseeing financial matters. Ed is currently the primary caregiver for his wife, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2018. Edward resides in Calgary with his wife, Bev. In his leisure time, he enjoys reading, watching films, and photography.

Director-at-Large Tim Battle



Tim has worked extensively in the non-profit sector, in education and various leadership roles. He also had broad experience in governance and currently sits on the board of directors for several organizations. Tim has been involved in several health advocacy initiatives and has a special interest in the areas of mental health and caregiver support. Tim has been an active member of the Health Coalition of Alberta since he joined in 2019.

Director-at-Large Patti Saluk



Patti Saluk is an experienced board member with over 40 years' experience sitting on various types of boards in education, union, and non-profit organizations. As a passionate advocate for people/patient rights, Patti brings a unique blend of dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm.

Patti has been an active member of the Canadian MPN Network since 2016 when she was diagnosed with an MPN. Patti has Polycythemia Vera, JAK2 mutation, a rare form of chronic leukemia, which does not have a cure. She started the Northern Alberta Support Group just as Covid began. Patti joined the CMPNN Board in 2022 and is currently the Chair of the Canadian MPN Network.

Director-at-Large Bev Dunn



Bev has nearly 40 years of experience as a Legal Assistant/Paralegal, specializing in Corporate Commercial, Banking, Securities, and Condominium law. She has served on several non-profit boards, using her corporate expertise and research skills to help develop organizational structure and policies. After retiring in 2018 due to Multiple Myeloma, Bev joined the Southern Alberta Myeloma Patient Society (SAMPS) in 2020 and became President in 2021. She is now Immediate Past President, continuing to support SAMPS and Myeloma Canada as a volunteer and patient advocate. Bev lives in Calgary with her husband, Edward, and their dog, Sophie, and cherishes time with grandchildren Raevyn and Ezra.

Director-at-Large Matthew Kay



Matthew Kay has a rich background in supportive living and disability services. In his current role as Regional Director (Alberta) for March of Dimes Canada, he plays a pivotal role in delivering supportive living services, ensuring seniors and individuals with disabilities maintain independence and engage fully in their communities. In his previous role as the Executive Director (Alberta/NWT) for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Matthew led initiatives to enhance vision loss rehabilitation services and ensure equal access for people with vision loss. Additionally, Matthew has also worked for multiple developmental disability organizations, fostering inclusion and improving the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

Director-at-Large Kleio Pardoe



Kleio is a graduate of the University of Alberta, majoring in Human Geography and Planning with a focus on health and space. She is dedicated to patient advocacy, stemming from her own experiences navigating health services. Professionally, Kleio has worked in harm reduction for the past three years; advocating for more support for people living with STBBIs and those who use substance. She is passionate about universal and holistic healthcare being accessible and equitable. On her off time, she can be found exploring trails in Alberta or relaxing at a local coffee shop. Kleio is excited to be a part of the Health Coalition of Alberta as it unifies and paves the way for improved care for all.

Ex-Officio Karen Knutson



Karen is a Holistic Nutrition Coach, helping people overcome health and wellness issues and related chronic conditions. She is based out of Calgary, Alberta and is also a CPA – CA with a Masters in Professional Accounting. Karen has over 15 years of experience in corporate accounting, finance, and leadership roles. Karen previously worked with professionals to help them gain control over their personal and professional finances. She was also the Manager of External Reporting & Internal Controls for WestJet and has served as a director and treasurer on various not-for-profit boards.

Our PREFERRED FUTURE

All Albertans have equitable access to quality health services.

Patients, families, and caregivers have voice and influence into the decisions that impact their health.

The Health Coalition of Alberta is an effective advocate for a health care system that is centered on patient needs to achieve healthy lives.

OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Executive Director Beth Kidd



Beth has more than 25 years of experience in developing, directing, and implementing patient advocacy, government relations, public relations, and marketing strategies. Beth has spent most of her career in the health charity sector although she came to the Health Coalition of Alberta from the corporate world. A long-standing patient advocate, she is dedicated to improving equitable access to services and care by focusing on public policy and government relations. As both a patient living with a chronic disease and a family caregiver, she is Chair of Canada's Drug Agency's Patient and Community Advisory Committee, a volunteer member of Research Canada's Board of Directors, a member of Dementia Network Calgary's Strategic Council, a network development advisor with Alberta's International Medical Graduates Association and moderator of Alberta's Migraine Warriors.

OUR MEMBERS

Alberta Community Council on HIV	CNIB AB & NWT/ Vision Loss Rehab
Alberta Continuing Care Association	Creekside Support Services Ltd
Alberta Council on Aging	Crohn's and Colitis Canada
Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association	Cystic Fibrosis Canada - Calgary & Southern
Alberta Pituitary Patient Society	AB Chapter
Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association	Cystic Fibrosis Canada - Edmonton &
ALS Society of Alberta	Northern AB Chapter
Alzheimer Society of Calgary	Dementia Network Calgary
Alzheimer Society, Alberta and Northwest Territories	Diabetes Canada
Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada/Network of Rare Blood Disorders	Easter Seals Alberta
Arthritis Society Canada	Edmonton Down Syndrome Society
Autism Society of Edmonton Area	Epilepsy Association of Calgary
Brain Care Centre	First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group Inc
Canadian Association for Porphyria	Gastrointestinal Society - Canadian Society of Intestinal Research
Canadian Association of Pompe	Greg's Wings
Canadian Cancer Society	Heart & Stroke
Canadian Cancer Survivor Network	HIV Network of Edmonton Society
Canadian Coalition of Global Health Research, Alberta Chapter	Huntington Society of Canada, Southern AB
Canadian Liver Foundation	Imagine Citizens
Canadian Mental Health Association, Edmonton Region	Kidney Foundation of Canada - Southern Alberta Branch
Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Division	Kidney Foundation of Canada- Northern Alberta & Territories
Canadian MPN Research Foundation	King Strategies
Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada
Canadian Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada	Living in Grace Foundation
Canadian Spondyloarthritis Association	Lung Association - Alberta and NWT
Canadian Down Syndrome Society	Lupus Society of Alberta
Caregivers Alberta	March of Dimes
CARP Calgary Chapter	Migraine Canada
CARP Edmonton Chapter	MS Canada
Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta	Muscular Dystrophy Canada - Prairies & NWT
Cholangio-Hepatocellular Carcinoma Canada	Myeloma Alberta Support Society
	Natural Health Practitioners Canada
	Oladele Foundation/African Cancer Support Group

Open Arms Patient Advocacy Society
 Osteoporosis Canada - Alberta Chapter
 Osteoporosis Canada - BC & Alberta Region
 Parkinson Association of Alberta
 Psoriasis Canada
 Psychologists' Association of Alberta
 SafeLink Alberta
 Save Your Skin Foundation
 Schizophrenia Society of Alberta
 Scleroderma Canada
 Southern Alberta Myeloma Patient Society
 SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association
 Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association
 of Northern Alberta
 Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
 TTR Amyloidosis Canada
 Turning Point Society
 Unmasking the Reality of Lung Cancer
 Ups and Downs - Calgary Down Syndrome
 Association
 Voice of Albertans with Disabilities
 Christy Baines
 Tim Battle
 Gina Beasley
 Louise Binder
 Judy Birdsell
 Julie Boucher
 Rick Brick
 Kathy Kovacs Burns
 Anne Marie Carr
 Mary Chibuk
 Teren Clarke
 Shirley Duia
 Beverley Dunn
 Lynne Eikel
 Salim Esmail
 Sarah Fearnside
 Sandra Fiolka

Darlene Gallant
 Fraser Hall
 Kleio Hayward Pardoe
 Corrine Hewko
 Susan Hnetka
 Stacy Johnson
 Rayne Johnson
 Matthew Kay
 Fatima Khan
 Karen Knutson
 Linda Kolewaski
 Corrine Kushneryk
 Rita Lyster
 Jeff MacKay
 Austin Mardon
 Michelle Marusiak
 Darrel McKenzie
 Scott McRae
 Larry Pempeit
 Tom Perkins
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 Marichelle Rogers
 Catherine Ryan
 Patricia Saluk
 Rhonda Shkrobot
 Katie Soles
 Dick Swaren
 Heather Templeton
 Amber Thibault
 Jennifer Vanderschaeye/Shay
 Joanne Wall
 Kathy Watson
 Angeline Webb
 Bruce West
 Meaghan Wright
 Cassidy Stromberg
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