

Alberta Public Health Association
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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About the APHA

Overview: vision, mission and values

The Alberta Public Health Association (APHA) is a provincial not-for-profit association representing public health in Alberta. The APHA was established in 1943 and was incorporated as a registered charitable organization in 1955. The APHA is a provincial affiliate of the Canadian Public Health Association and works with the other provincial and territorial public health associations across Canada through its membership in the Canadian Network of Public Health Associations. The APHA is the only independent voice for public health in Alberta. APHA has a voluntary membership that includes practitioners, academics, students, representatives of government departments, non-government organizations, community members, and others. Interests and professional foci of members include but are not limited to:

- Health protection;
- Disease and injury prevention;
- Health promotion;
- Social determinants of health;
- Population health;
- Health equity; and
- Health-related policy

A voluntary board is elected by the membership and governs the Association. The membership gives direction to the board to act on specific public health issues through resolutions passed annually at the Annual General Meeting and through ongoing interaction.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in public health. We welcome membership from those working in health, as well as those working outside of the health system but whose work influences well-being, such as planners, transportation engineers, individuals working in social policy or any aspect of the social determinants of health, social workers, recreation and parks professionals, and others.

We are always interested in hearing from enthusiastic, reliable, and hard-working members who would like to take on formal roles within the Association, including but not limited to serving on the Board of Directors. Please contact us for more information (apha.comm@gmail.com).

APHA Vision: A vibrant public health community contributing to a healthy Alberta

APHA Mission: To be an independent, credible and fearless advocate for public health and health equity in Alberta

APHA Values/Principles:

- *Informed:* evidence-based; evidence-informed; value science but cognizant of broader context and diverse ways of knowing; rigorous
- *Integrity:* trust; honesty; ethical; principled; transparent; fairness
- *Collaborative:* inclusive; respectful
- *Innovative:* courageous; progressive; creative; enterprising

APHA 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Angeline Webb

President

Angeline Webb is the Regional Manager of Health Policy and Health Promotion with the Canadian Cancer Society where she has been engaged in population health and public health advocacy for the last 15 years. She develops, implements, and administers all health policy development and health promotion programming for the Canadian Cancer Society in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Angeline's focus is healthy public policy and shared public health leadership. Angeline has been involved with the APHA since 2010.

Treasurer

Disha Panchal

Disha is a dental surgeon and a recent graduate of the Master of Public Health program specializing in Environmental and Occupational Health from the UAB School of Public Health. She has diverse professional experiences ranging from clinical practice to fieldwork and an all-inclusive community approach. Currently, working as a Policy Specialist with Action on Smoking & Health, Disha is passionate for conducting policy campaigns and advocating for comprehensive smoking/vaping regulations to protect the youth from nicotine addiction.

Strong interpersonal, organizational, teamwork, and analytical skills along with problem-solving competence and a naturally engaging personality are her strengths. Her areas of research interest include environmental impacts of professional practice, second-hand exposure to tobacco smoke, substance use and addictions, vaping behaviors, and antimicrobial resistance.

Secretary

Dr. Alexa Ferdinands

Alexa Ferdinands is a Registered Dietitian and Postdoctoral Fellow with the Community-University Partnership in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta. She is interested in using community-based approaches to address health equity issues, particularly as they pertain to youth. Working with Dr. Maria Mayan, her postdoctoral research is examining the implementation and outcomes of a tuition assistance program in Drayton Valley.

Dr. Heather Morris

Director-at-Large

Heather Morris, MN RN, is a PhD candidate at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta. As a former public health nurse, her research interests center around public opinions of harm reduction and how individuals with lived and living experience shape drug policy reform in Canada. Heather is currently a research trainee with the Inner City Health and Wellness Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton and a volunteer with Garneau Strathcona Food Security.

Dr. Lars Hallstrom

Director-at-Large

Lars K. Hallstrom, PhD, is a Professor in two faculties at the University of Alberta (the Augustana Faculty and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences). He has been the Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities since 2009, where he has overseen over 60 projects and grants ranging from municipal planning to watershed management to youth engagement to the social determinants of health.

Judith McNicol-Meakin

Director-at-Large



Judith McNicol-Meakin is a Registered Dietitian, RD with a keen interest in health promotion, food literacy, and nutrition education. With a background in physiology and sport science, she strives to combine both interests and help people of various health and life stages to meet their nutrition and physical activity goals. Judith has taken an interest in Albertan Public Health and is passionate about food sovereignty and advocating for a food system beneficial to all Albertans. Judith enjoys the outdoors and encourages others to do the same. As a qualified ski instructor, she loves winter and being active all year round.

APHA 2021-2022 Committee Members and Volunteers

In addition to our Board Members who hold formal, elected roles with our organization, we are most grateful to the following individuals for their important and highly valued contributions to the APHA during the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

	Role and Contribution	Committee
Cathy Gladwin	Membership management and liaison with CPHA for conjoint membership	Membership & Communications Committee member
Michelle Kilborn	APHA liaison with the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association	Issues, Partnerships & Funding Committee member

President's Report

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Alberta Public Health Association, with the dedication and perseverance of the Board and our members, managed opportunities to support action in public health even in the face of very daunting resource and capacity challenges.

As with other sectors, the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected civil society organizations who are working to prevent chronic and communicable disease and reduce health disparities. During the pandemic, public health organizations working on chronic disease prevention and the determinants of health and health inequities have faced reductions in resources and capacity and have struggled to recover. The APHA continues to have challenges in resources and capacity.

The 2021-2022 fiscal year efforts focused on an extension 2020-2021 efforts. In 2021 the APHA key action areas were to focus on managing our administrative requirements in the wake of the pandemic. In addition, the APHA also focused on supporting the public health community to identify opportunities to address issues such as chronic disease risk factor reduction, healthy school food and drug policy.

As an organization managed solely by volunteers, the APHA continues to face capacity and resource issues. We continue to struggle with public and membership communication. This includes consistent newsletters to our members and updates to our website. However, in the face of these challenges, the APHA continues to focus on solutions. We look forward to improving communication during the upcoming fiscal year.

As Alberta's only independent voice for public health the APHA continues to have a unique role to play in not only supporting fulsome shared leadership approaches required to take action on the determinants of health but also support a shift in public discourse on the importance and value of public health in Alberta.

Respectfully submitted by
Angeline Webb
President

Governance Committee Report

The Board of Directors sets the direction and policy for the APHA, and is supported by the Governance Committee for activities relating to organizational bylaws, policies & procedures, board nomination, orientation, and evaluation.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year the APHA Board, experienced turn over with a long stand board member moving on for their position. However, during the 2021-2022 two new Board members joined us who will strengthen the existing Board members skills and representation.

The Governance committee priorities in the upcoming fiscal year will be to recruit board members and review the bylaws.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb
Governance Committee member and President

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Alberta Public Health Association (APHA) Treasurer's Report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. In addition to this report the APHA Financial Statements (March 31, 2022) have been completed with a financial audit performed by two members (elected during 2019-2020 fiscal year AGM) of the APHA.

The APHA maintains operations as a voluntary organization without funding. However, we continue to maintain general operations. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year the APHA maintained membership subscriptions and renewal and supported public health advocacy as well as collaborative stakeholder public health initiatives. The APHA completed 2021-2022 fiscal year year-end filing to the Alberta Registries for ongoing Societies Act registration and completed year-end filing of Registered Charity Information Return to the Canada Revenue Agency.

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, APHA held an operating balance of \$9,328.29 with a year-end operating balance of \$10,079.94. Our revenue was \$4,015 and our expenses equaled \$3,750 for the fiscal year. The APHA registered a surplus for the 2021-2022 fiscal year with a balance of \$265.

The APHA fiscal reserves are within GIC Investment savings and T-Bill savings account the end of the fiscal year was \$17,368.05.

In the upcoming fiscal year, APHA will continue to rely on membership contributions as a funding source. We will continue to explore opportunities to increase and diversify APHA funding. The Board is enthusiastic in exploring opportunities to build sustainable revenue in order to support Alberta's public health community.

Respectfully submitted by,
Disha Panchal, Treasurer

Issues, Partnerships & Funding Committee Report

This committee leads the identification of priorities for action by the APHA and coordinates collaborative efforts and activities on those priority areas. This committee is also responsible for assisting the APHA in achieving its funding goals and objectives as well as maintaining and supporting collaborative leadership outcomes through strategic initiatives and partnerships that are aligned with our overall vision. The APHA was involved in several collaborative partnership activities during the 2021-2022 fiscal year in an effort improve public health in Alberta.

Partnerships

This fiscal year APHA focused on partnership instead of leading any advocacy efforts.

Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta

APHA member Angeline Webb represents APHA on the Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta (CSFA). CSFA is a coalition of public health organization that are working together to reduce commercial tobacco use and nicotine dependency in Alberta. CSFA advocates for evidence-based policy which will prevent and reduce exposure to the harms associated with tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Alberta Recreation & Parks Association

APHA member Michlle Kilborn, PhD represents APHA in engagement with the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA). AHPA continues to partner with ARPA and regularly attends and participates in ARPA's yearly conference. A special thank you to Michelle Kilborn for her leadership and participation in engaging with ARPA.

Alberta Food Matters and Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC)

APHA has partnered with Alberta Food Matters and the PHABC to explore opportunities to increase access to healthy school food in Alberta.

Other Stakeholders

APHA would also like to thank our other key stakeholders who help us to achieve our goals and objectives in 2021-2022 fiscal year:

- The School of Public Health at the University of Alberta
- The O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary
- The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb, President

Membership & Communications Committee Report

We are pleased to present the Membership and Communications Report for 2021-2022. APHA's Membership and Communications Committee has two primary roles: (1) to manage and grow memberships, and (2) to facilitate the engagement of APHA members with relevant information.

MEMBERSHIP

APHA had a total of 71 members as of March 31, 2022. This time last year we had 109 active members. There has been a steady decrease over the past two years – this includes conjoint memberships with CPHA. The following chart summarizes our current membership:

APHA Membership March 31, 2022		
Membership Type	Number of Members	Fee Paid
Honourary	6	No fee
APHA Direct - Regular	10	\$50
APHA Direct - Retired	3	\$22
APHA Direct - Student	10	\$22
Total Direct	29	
CPHA Conjoint - Regular	24	\$50
CPHA Conjoint - Retired	1	\$22
CPHA Conjoint - Student	17	\$22
Total Conjoint	42	
TOTAL	71	
<i>Total Regular</i>	34	
<i>Total Retired</i>	4	
<i>Total Student</i>	27	
Fee Notes 1. Honourary Members pay no fees. 2. APHA Direct members pay fees directly to APHA. 3. CPHA Conjoint members pay fees to CPHA, and CPHA then forwards \$50 to us. (Conjoint payments show as 'free' in Wild Apricot because no payment transaction is entered into the Wild Apricot system.) 4. Conjoint fees: regular is \$250, student is \$90 and retired is \$97.		

COMMUNICATIONS

Due to capacity issues the M&C committee did not implement any robust communication initiatives for APHA in the past year. However, the APHA supported member participation in the May 2021 University of Calgary, O'Brien Institute for Public Health event on *A New Beginning for Public Health - Campus Alberta Health Outcomes and Public Health Symposium*.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb, President



Student Committee Report

The Student Committee is responsible for promoting student membership in the Association and planning and executing student public health initiatives. This committee works to:

- 1) Recruits students with a public health interest for General and Board Membership of the Association, as well as inviting them to participate in Work Groups.
- 2) Organize and facilitate public health initiatives tailored for students, including presentations and webinars discussing the opportunities available for volunteering and employment within public health.
- 3) Connects with and engages students in public health initiatives of the Association and encouraging them to participate in Committee activities (e.g., helping to facilitate and attend presentations and webinars)
- 4) Acts as a liaison between the Board and students; responding to student inquiries and connecting students with relevant Work Groups and/or Board Members of the Association.

During the fall of 2021 Student Committee chair and volunteers have moved on to other opportunities. We would like to encourage students interested in representing their issues to reach out to volunteer with the APHA.

Respectfully submitted by
Angeline Webb, President