



NEWS RELEASE

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Health Quality Council of Alberta seeks voice of Albertans to improve healthcare quality

(Calgary, AB) The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) is looking for Albertans to join its Patient/Family Safety Advisory Panel to bring forward the citizen, patient, and family perspective.

The volunteer Panel is a group of 11 people from across Alberta who provide input to improve and promote patient safety principles, concepts, and actions in all aspects of Alberta's publicly-funded healthcare system.

"Being on the Panel is fascinating, interesting, and eye-opening. I've realized there is no one voice, but many similar voices and we have the opportunity to represent them," says Panel member John Scharrer.

"Participating on the Panel is an excellent way to provide first-hand insight into how to improve patient safety and quality of healthcare services in Alberta," says Patricia Pelton, Acting Chief Executive Officer for the HQCA. "We aim to understand Albertans' experiences and perspectives about the healthcare system, and this dialogue plays an important role in making healthcare in Alberta safer for all."

Applicants must be 18 years or older, reside in Alberta, and have a passion for creating a safer healthcare system in Alberta.

"If you have an interest in promoting patient safety, the Panel is a positive way to make a difference," says Panel member Anne Findlay.

The Panel meets approximately six times a year, alternating between Calgary and Edmonton at no expense to members. Anyone interested in participating has until July 23, 2014, to express their interest by applying online at www.hqca.ca.

The Health Quality Council of Alberta gathers and analyzes information and collaborates with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, health professions, academia and other stakeholders to translate that knowledge into practical improvements to health service quality and patient safety in the healthcare system.

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