

Alberta Public Health Association

Annual Report

2023 Fiscal Year

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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 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Angeline Webb

President

Angeline Webb is the Sr. 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 20 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 2011.

Disha Panchal

Treasurer

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.

Dr. Alexa Ferdinands

Secretary

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. 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.

Derek Coe**Director-at-Large**

Derek Coe is a graduate of the Master of Public Health program specializing in Health Promotion from the University of Alberta, and is currently working as the Deputy Manager, Personnel Support Programs (PSP) with Canadian Armed Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) in Cold Lake, Alberta. He has a diverse background in public health that includes over 10 years at CFMWS in various positions, including Health Promotion Specialist, Health Promotion Manager, Resources Coordinator, and more recently as the Deputy Manager, PSP where he has oversight of the Health Promotion Department as well as the sports and fitness facility. He has also worked as a public health planner at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment in Pueblo, Colorado working on community health campaigns, organizational strategic planning, as well as leading the grant application process for various initiatives.



APHA 2022-2023 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 2023 fiscal year:

	Role and Contribution	Committee
Cathy Gladwin	Membership management and liaison with CPHA for conjoint membership	Membership & Communications Committee member

President's Report

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Alberta Public Health Association, with the dedication and perseverance of the Board and our members, managed opportunities to support public health programming 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 particularly those working to improve public health. Public health resources became scarce resulting in a severe reduction in capacity. Public health associations across the country have struggled to recover. Today public health in Alberta continues to face many challenges including an ongoing lack of capacity, limited resources, health services reorganization, and a divisive public health policy environment. A strong public health voice matters more than ever in these difficult times. As an independent non-profit organization that transcends professional roles and sectors, the APHA plays an essential role in championing, protecting, and supporting public health in Alberta. However, the challenges faced by public health have impacted the essential role that APHA plays. APHA has been unable to respond to public issues and struggled in the implementation of programming.

The APHA 2022-2023 fiscal year key action areas focused on managing our administrative requirements. In addition, the APHA also supported efforts to improve access to healthy school food via the collaborative implementation of the School Food Animators farm-to-school food initiative pilot project focusing on building capacity among participating schools and local communities to improve school food programs using a farm-to-school approach. This programming was a partnership between APHA, Alberta Food Matters, Public Health Association of BC, and Farm to Cafeteria Canada.

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. We also struggle with board and member recruitment. 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 public health issues 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 2022-2023 fiscal year the APHA Governance Committee did not have the capacity to perform actions. This was due to the limited capacity of the Board of Directors and the need to focus on organizational administration versus committee outcomes.

The Governance committee priorities in the upcoming fiscal year will be to engage in succession planning and recruitment as well as reviewing 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 2022-2023 fiscal year. In addition to this report the APHA Financial Statements (March 31, 2023) have been completed with a financial audit performed by two members of the APHA.

The APHA maintains operations as a voluntary organization without funding. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year the APHA maintained membership subscriptions and renewal and supported stakeholder public health initiatives which included supporting the implementation of the School Food Animator program in collaboration with Alberta Food Matters. APHA held the contract services funds for the project (\$33,050).

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 2022-2023 fiscal year, APHA held an operating balance of \$10,412.70 with a year-end operating balance of \$24,929.81. Our revenue was \$36,296.62 with \$33,050 for the School Food Animator project, and \$3,236.62 revenue from membership and interest income. Our expenses equaled \$4,493.76 (excluding the School Food Animator project expenses) for the fiscal year. The APHA registered a surplus for the 2022-2023 fiscal year with a balance of \$7,488.51. Please note that \$5,120.85 from March 31, 2018, PayPal account closure is listed as a write-off this fiscal year. Write-off due to PayPal account administrative access barriers.

The APHA fiscal reserves are held within a GIC Investment savings account. The end of the fiscal year reserve was \$17,718.60.

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 in order to build sustainable revenue.

Respectfully submitted by,
Disha Panchal
Treasurer

Public Issues Committee Report

This committee leads the identification of APHA priorities for action and coordinates collaborative efforts and activities on those priority areas. The APHA was involved in several collaborative partnership activities during the 2022-2023 fiscal year in an effort improve public health outcomes in Alberta.

This fiscal year APHA focused on partnerships instead of leading 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 Dr. Michlle Kilborn, 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, Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC), Farm to Cafeteria Canada

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb
President

Partnerships & Funding Committee Report

This committee support APAH in achieving its fundraising goals and objectives through strategic initiatives and partnerships that are aligned with our overall vision as well as establishing positive relations and building awareness with stakeholders and donors.

This fiscal year the Board did not have the expertise to adequately support the objectives of this committee.

APHA currently relies on membership fees as a funding source. However, the reliance on membership fees is proving inadequate to support the efforts required to strengthen the voice of public health in Alberta. We hope that in the future we can find the expertise to support the development of a funding raising strategy that can diversify our funding sources.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb
President

Membership & Communications Committee Report

We are pleased to present the Membership and Communications Report for 2022-2023. 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 91 members as of March 31, 2023. This is an increase from 71 members in 2021-2022 fiscal year. However, there has been a steady decrease over the past 4 years – this includes conjoint memberships with CPHA. The following chart summarizes 2022-2023 fiscal year membership:

APHA Membership March 31, 2023		
Membership Type	Number of Members	Fee Paid
Honourary	6	No fee
APHA Direct - Regular	6	\$50
APHA Direct - Retired	0	\$22
APHA Direct - Student	11	\$22
Total Direct	23	
CPHA Conjoint - Regular	46	\$50
CPHA Conjoint - Retired	1	\$22
CPHA Conjoint - Student	21	\$22
Total Conjoint	68	
TOTAL	91	
Total Regular	52	
Total Retired	1	
Total Student	32	
Fee Notes		
1. Honourary Members pay no fees.		
2. APHA Direct members pay fees directly to APHA.		
3. CPHA/APHA Conjoint members pay fees to CPHA. CPHA forwards APHA contribution to APHA .		

COMMUNICATIONS

Due to capacity issues the Membership and Communications committee did not implement any robust communication initiatives for APHA in the past year.

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) Recruit students with a public health interest for General and Board Membership of the Association, as well as inviting them to participate in committee working 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 committee working groups and/or Board Members of the Association.

The APHA has not been able to recruit student committee volunteers due to capacity or expertise. We would like to encourage students interested in increasing the reach of the public health student voice to volunteer with the APHA.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angeline Webb
President