Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

The biographies of the newly appointed Alberta Health Services Board of Directors are linked in the list below:

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Linda Hughes, Chair

Linda Hughes served as the 19th Chancellor of the University of Alberta and Chair of the Senate. She has been a leading figure in Canadian media for over 20 years and continues to be one of Canada's most influential communicators.

Ms. Hughes was the first woman in Canada to hold the position of publisher of a major newspaper. For 15 years, from 1992 to 2006, Ms. Hughes was Publisher and CEO of The Edmonton Journal. From 2003 to 2005 Ms. Hughes held the role of General Manager Alberta for CanWest Media Works, which included responsibility for the CanWest newspapers and television operations in Alberta. Her career at The Edmonton Journal spanned 30 years and included serving as Editor-In-Chief, Editor of various departments and Parliamentary Reporter.

She has served on the boards of the National Newspaper Awards, the Journalism Foundation of Canada and the Committee to Protect Journalists. In 2007, she spent two months as a volunteer in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, helping a daily newspaper to prepare for its role in a new democracy. She was a member of the board of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada from 2002 to 2008.

Deeply committed to her community, she is a founding member of the NorQuest College Foundation and a former chair of the board of the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. She has formerly served as a member of the Edmonton Homeless Commission, and on the boards of the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. She also serves on the board of the Torstar Corporation. In 2014 she was appointed to the Premier's Advisory Committee on the Alberta Public Service.

Ms. Hughes graduated with an Honours BA from the University of Victoria. She has received honorary doctorates from Athabasca University, the University of Alberta, and the University of Victoria, and has been awarded Alberta's Centennial Medal, the Arthur Kroeger College Award for Public Affairs (Carleton University), a Lifetime Achievement Award from the YWCA and membership in Alberta's Business Hall of Fame.

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn, Vice-chair

Dr. Hemmelgarn is a specialist in Nephrology with a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University and research expertise in health services research. Originally trained as a nurse, she is currently a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences, and is Head of the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Hemmelgarn brings to the table significant front-line experience in healthcare, a strong knowledge of operational issues and an in-depth perspective of health-care issues for Albertans and AHS.

Dr. Hemmelgarn's research interests involve chronic medical conditions such as chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease, using computerized data sources, including the Alberta Kidney Disease Network (AKDN) repository of laboratory data and Alberta Health administrative data.

Dr. Hemmelgarn holds the Roy and Vi Baay Chair in Kidney Research and is the team coleader for the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration. She is also active in clinical practice guideline development including international guidelines, is Director of the AKDN, and is the past chair of the clinical practice guideline committee for the Canadian Society of Nephrology.

In her service to the community, Dr. Hemmelgarn sits on the Board of Directors for the Kidney Foundation of Canada Southern Alberta Branch, is a past member of the Board of Hypertension Canada and Canadian Organ Replacement Register as well as participating in numerous other professional advisory committees.

David Carpenter

David Carpenter was appointed Official Administrator of Alberta Health Services on August 25, 2015.

Mr. Carpenter became a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1974. He worked as a chartered accountant in Lethbridge before retiring from active practice in 1985 to focus on public service.

He was first elected a Councillor for the City of Lethbridge in 1977, and was re-elected in 1980 and 1983. In 1986 he was elected mayor, a post he held for five terms until retiring in 2001.

Mr. Carpenter has served as member, chairman and director of dozens of civic and community committees. In 1999, he was elected to represent Alberta Municipalities on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – the national voice of municipal governments.

In 2002, Mr. Carpenter was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta. He was named Chair of the Board in 2004 and held this position until his retirement in 2012.

Hugh D. Sommerville

Hugh Sommerville is a criminal defence lawyer practicing in Drumheller, Alberta.

Mr. Sommerville was first elected as a Bencher for the Law Society of Alberta in 1997 and has completed two other terms, commencing in 2000 and 2006 respectively. He was elected to a fourth term of three years in 2014. His experience with the Law Society of Alberta has provided him with a broad-based perspective on the public policy issues facing the legal profession as a whole. Mr. Sommerville received his designation as Queen's Counsel in 1998.

Mr. Sommerville was born in Calgary, Alberta and he received his law degree from the University of Calgary in 1985. He began his career with the Crown Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's office, before moving on to private practice. In 1995, Mr. Sommerville moved his practice to Drumheller, where he has been a sole practitioner, assisting rural Albertans with their legal issues.

A proud resident of Drumheller for over 20 years, he and his wife actively participate in fundraising for community projects and local cultural activities. They enjoy travel and spending time with their two grown children and four grandchildren.

Marliss Taylor

Marliss Taylor is currently the Program Manager for the Streetworks program in Edmonton and sits on the Steering Committee for the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition.

She received her Diploma in Nursing in 1982 and Degree in Nursing in 1992. After working for 11 years in adult and pediatric Intensive Care Units in Regina, Edmonton and San Antonio, she moved to the high Arctic. There, she received her certificate in Advanced Practice Nursing and worked as a Nurse Practitioner in the community of Kugluktuk, and Nurse Manager in the community of Gjoa Haven, Nunavut.

In 1995, Ms. Taylor returned to Edmonton as the Program Manager of the Streetworks program and has worked in Harm Reduction for the past 20 years. She has been involved in Health Promotion/Harm Reduction Initiatives in Siberia and Guyana, and a multitude of local, provincial and national research projects.

In 2006, Ms. Taylor won the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in Health and Medicine, and the Nursing Honour Society Community Leadership Award. In 2014, she was awarded the Clinical Innovation Award, also from the Nursing Honour Society.

Glenda Yeates

Glenda Yeates is a bilingual public sector leader with 32 years of experience leading large and small organizations and providing strategic and operational leadership in complex policy environments.

Born and raised in Alberta and working extensively in Saskatchewan and Ottawa, Ms. Yeates has wide-ranging familiarity with the health sector, government processes, federal-provincial relations, and non-governmental organization management. She brings an extensive experience in policy-making supported by evidence.

Ms. Yeates was Canada's Deputy Minister of Health from 2010 to 2013, after serving as Associate Deputy Minister since May 2009. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Yeates was the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (2004-2009), the Deputy Minister of Health in Saskatchewan (1999 to 2004), and Saskatchewan's Deputy Minister of Social Services (1997 to 1999). Ms. Yeates has also held various Assistant and Associate Deputy Minister positions in Saskatchewan Health and a number of senior posts in the Saskatchewan Department of Finance.

She has served as a board member for Carleton University, the Ontario Change Foundation, and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. An accomplished pianist, she loves cross-country skiing and the outdoors, especially the mountains.

Richard Dicerni

Richard Dicerni was named Deputy Minister of Alberta Executive Council and Head of the Alberta Public Service on October 15, 2014. Prior to accepting this position, Mr. Dicerni was Adjunct Research Professor at the Ivey Business School and sat on various boards.

Born and raised in Montreal, Mr. Dicerni graduated from the College Sainte Marie in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts. He pursued graduate studies at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard where he earned a Master's in Public Administration in 1981.

Mr. Dicerni started his career with the federal government in 1969. In the 1970s and 1980s, he held a number of executive positions in the federal public service including Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Health and Welfare; and Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet. In 1992, he joined the Ontario Government as Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy. In 1995, he assumed the position of Deputy Minister, Education and Training.

In 1996, Mr. Dicerni was appointed President and CEO of the newly established Canadian Newspaper Association. Mr. Dicerni left this position in 1998 to become Senior Vice President at Ontario Power Generation (OPG). He stayed at OPG for the next seven years and led the company between 2003 and 2005.

He rejoined the Canadian Government as Deputy Minister of Industry where he served from 2006 to 2012.

He has served on the boards of Trent University, the Credit Valley Hospital, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) and the Public Policy Forum.