



Alliance for  
Healthier Communities  
Advancing Health  
Equity in Ontario

## Co-Designing the Future of Primary Health Care: Working toward Equitable Health and Wellbeing for Everyone in Ontario

### Vision

Equitable health and wellbeing for everyone living in Ontario.

### Values

**Health Equity:** We advocate for policies and interventions that address discrimination and oppression with a goal of eradicating social inequality and disadvantage for the purpose of reducing differences in health outcomes.

**Leadership:** We believe in challenging the status quo with integrity and transparency, striving consistently for quality and promoting system innovation.

### Mission

Advance comprehensive primary health care and advocate for changes in Ontario's health and social systems to address inequities.

**Collaboration:** We believe that we are stronger together, and embrace engagement, cooperation and partnerships to influence change.

**Knowledge:** We are evidence-informed and use sociodemographic and race-based data. We respect, seek out, learn from and act on diverse ways of knowing and lived experience.

**Self-Determination:** We believe that people and communities have the right to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.



## Message from the Chair



Looking back at the past year, I see so many success stories. Along with members and partners, the Alliance for Healthier Communities has strengthened its position as a leading provincial voice for community-governed primary health care. Together, we worked to reimagine and influence Ontario's health system transformation to better serve people and communities facing barriers to good health and wellbeing.

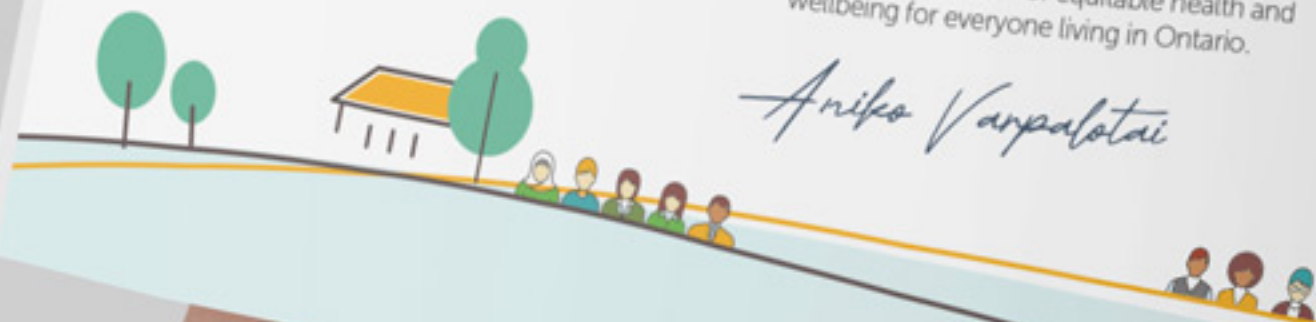
We have a lot to celebrate. New investments in Interprofessional Primary Care Team expansion marked a historic day for team-based health care and the community health sector, as well as an important step towards positioning primary health care as the foundation of the health system. Throughout the year, we continued to build awareness of Alliance members' unique contributions to the health system through a robust government relations strategy, targeted campaigns and a successful Community Primary Health Care Day at Queen's Park.

Last year, we also achieved an important milestone in our collective work toward Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands. The Alliance signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC) that enabled a joint membership structure for Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations (IPHCOs) who may wish to be members of both associations. With this agreement, we hope to continue supporting the IPHCC and IPHCO members in their work to build Indigenous-led health systems where Indigenous people are able to attain equitable health and wellbeing.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, I also want to recognize ongoing challenges, including the health human resources crisis, challenges in the health and social services system and world events that have far-reaching impacts on the communities you serve. Through these difficult times, you – Alliance members – have continued to be steadfast in your commitment to advancing health equity in your organizations, through Ontario Health Teams and at other partnership tables, in your communities and on the system level. At the Alliance, we continued to work with the Primary Care Collaborative, Community Health Ontario, government and other health system partners to advocate for additional investments in primary health care. Going forward, the Ontario Community Health Market Review that we completed in partnership with nine other provincial associations will be a useful tool in our advocacy for increased wages for Alliance member staff.

I want to thank all members of the Alliance, its Board and staff for your courage to drive change, your incredible work and unwavering commitment to our shared vision of equitable health and wellbeing for everyone living in Ontario.

Anika Varpalotai



## 2023-2024 Highlights

- The Alliance worked with the Primary Care Collaborative and other system partners to advocate for additional investments and strengthen community-based primary health care. The Human Health Resources advocacy has been at the forefront of our work, and we worked with nine other associations to complete the Ontario Community Health Market Review.
- New funding for interprofessional primary health care will support new and existing teams and ensure more people can access team-based care. The Alliance supported members' Expression of Interest applications for funding to expand and implement primary health care teams.
- Throughout the year, we worked to build awareness about Alliance members' unique contributions to primary health care with a robust government relations strategy, a targeted CHCs Work Campaign, Community Health and Wellbeing Week with its *Community Health is Essential* message and a successful Community Primary Health Care Day at Queen's Park.
- Last year, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council to reshape and strengthen ties between the two organizations. By enabling a joint membership structure, this agreement will benefit eligible Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations (IPHCOs) who may wish to be members of both associations.
- We developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Durham CHC to hire Provincial Lead on Black Health and Wellness.
- We continued to work with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council on the Transitions to Care project, which aims to create better pathways to primary health care for people leaving the correctional system. Over the past year, we have expanded the Community of Practice to include members and Ministry of the Solicitor General partners.
- We participated in the Ontario Hospital Association-led working group to develop government recommendations around better access to primary health care for people who are uninsured.
- Over the year, social prescribing has grown across Alliance membership and beyond. With more than 50 members receiving supports from the Alliance, four sites offering Black-focused social prescribing, a successful Social Prescribing conference and *Social Prescribing for Human Connections Day* – it continues to create new pathways between healthcare system and social and community services.
- Our Learning Health System has continued to grow with seven active communities of practice, Rapid Action & Learning Intensive on sociodemographic data collection, learning collaboratives, in-person professional learning events on Data Management and Quality Improvement, new tools and resources, webinars and other learning opportunities.
- We continue to advance practice-informed research. That includes ongoing participation in provincial and national primary care learning networks, 29 active research projects in partnership with universities and research institutes, and Dr. Jennifer Rayner, Alliance's Director of Research and Policy, being appointed adjunct research scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

To learn more about these and other successes of the past year, make sure to watch our Annual Report 2023-2024 video at:

[www.allianceon.org/Annual-Report-2023-24](http://www.allianceon.org/Annual-Report-2023-24)



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## Financial Report 2023-2024

Alliance for Healthier Communities has a solid financial picture, with total revenues of **\$10.1 million**.

Total revenue of approximately **\$2.5 million** contributes to our core operations: advocacy, policy, communications, and resource support for our members. This revenue was earned from membership fees, meeting registrations, conference and learning events.

Additional revenue of **\$5.4 million** contributes to our Information Management Strategy (IMS) and the EPIC Learning Health System. This revenue was earned from IMS participation fees and from Privacy and Security Training conducted with member organizations. **\$2.8 million** of IMS fees flow directly to vendors. The rest of the funding was used to support the Data Centre and development of BIRT.

Grant funding in the amount of **\$2.1 million** was received from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Links2Wellbeing Social Prescribing, University of British Columbia (CIHR), Balsam Foundation, Queen's University and Medavie Health Foundation. A significant amount of this funding was distributed to participating member centers.

**As of March 31, 2024, the Alliance's fund balances totaled \$1,046,941:**

- General Fund: \$87,466 was transferred to our general reserve. The balance in the General Fund is \$404,997.
- IMS Fund: \$60,000 was transferred to our IMS reserve. The balance in the IMS Fund is \$320,019.
- Research and Evaluation Fund: \$125,241 was transferred to our R&E reserve. The balance in the R&E Fund is \$321,925.

Audited statements are available upon request.

## Alliance Board 2023-2024

**Aniko Varpalotai, Chair**  
Board member, Central Community Health Centre

**Mike Bulthuis, Vice-Chair**  
Board Chair, Centretown Community Health Centre

**François Seguin, Treasurer**  
Board member, l'Équipe de santé familiale communautaire de l'Est d'Ottawa

**Marc Bisson, Secretary**  
Executive Director, Centre de santé communautaire de l'Estrie

**Cliff Ledwos, Director**  
Associate Executive Director and Director of Primary Health Care, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

**Denis Constantineau, Director**  
CEO, Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury

We would like to thank outgoing board members – Kirsten Woodend, Liben Gebremikael and Mariette Sutherland – for their dedicated service on the Board and outstanding contributions to advancing health equity through comprehensive primary health care.



**Elise Harding-Davis, Director**  
Board Chair, Harrow Health Centre FHT

**Kirsten Woodend, Director**  
Board Chair, Peterborough 360 Degree Nurse Practitioner—Led Clinic

**Liben Gebremikael, Director**  
Executive Director, TAIBU Community Health Centre

**Mariette Sutherland, Director**  
Board member, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre

**Suzanne Obiorah, Director**  
Executive Director, Somerset West Community Health Centre