



Joining the Alliance for Healthier Communities You Belong Here



Who we are

The Alliance for Healthier Communities is the voice of a vibrant network of community-governed primary health care organizations. Our members serve diverse communities across the province, and they are rooted in the communities they serve. They share commitment to advancing health equity through the delivery of comprehensive primary health care.

We are an organization and a movement. One committed to seeing transformative change to the health system in Ontario. We exist to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers.

Our strong and united network is built on a belief that health is the state of complete physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing. We are determined to eliminate the inequities that leave 3.5 million people in Ontario at risk of poor health. That requires expanding access to community-governed comprehensive primary health care.

We invite you to join our growing association and become part of the movement. Together we can ensure healthier people, healthier communities, a more inclusive society, and a more sustainable health care system.

Vision

The best possible health and wellbeing for everyone living in Ontario.

Mission

We champion transformative change to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities facing barriers to health.

Values

Equity: We champion an equitable, inclusive and respectful primary health care system.

Leadership: We challenge the status quo with integrity and transparency and are catalysts for system innovation.

Collaboration: We embrace community-driven cooperation and partner to influence change.

Knowledge: We act and learn from a community-informed and evidence-based approach.

Our membership

The Alliance was formed in 1982 with only six Community Health Centres as members. We have grown since then to embrace a wide range of community-governed, interprofessional, primary health care organizations from across the province. Today, our association is more than 100 members strong.

We are always open to like-minded organizations that share our values and our ambitious vision. The Alliance membership is based on the following criteria:

- Deliver interprofessional primary health care – primary care services in combination with health promotion and community development activities that address all factors impacting health and improve life in the places where people live, work and play;
- Apply community-centred approach to service delivery that incorporates the voice of the community in decision-making, with community governance as its core pillar;
- Support the Alliance's mission, vision and values;
- Endorse the Health Equity Charter;
- Endorse the Model of Health and Wellbeing or Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing as applicable;
- Be incorporated as a not-for-profit organization or be recognized by the Federal Government as a First Nations Government;
- Operate in Ontario; and
- Receive funding for its primary care services from the Ontario government or Federal Government for Indigenous organizations.

How we work

Transparency and member participation are at the core of our work at the Alliance. The Alliance is governed by the Board of Directors comprised of member representatives from across the province. The Board serves as a voice of our members and our moral owners – the 3.5 million people in Ontario facing social, economic and environmental barriers to good health, especially Indigenous, Francophones, and racialized communities, as well as people who identify as LGBTQ. The Board of Directors regularly communicates with and engages members' boards through board liaisons, reports, webinars and our annual general meeting.

In addition, the Alliance supports a wide range of direction-setting committees, member networks and working groups. The goal is to facilitate member engagement, information sharing and learning. Through their participation in committees and networks, members provide leadership and guidance for our work at the Alliance.

Why you should join

Alliance members work at the forefront of transformative change by delivering comprehensive primary health care to people and communities facing barriers to equitable health and wellbeing. As their provincial association, we provide the support and critical resources they need to achieve their mission. Membership in the Alliance means a wide range of benefits, from capacity building opportunities to affordable group benefit rates and information management support. Most importantly, by joining the Alliance you will become part of a strong community that delivers positive system-wide change.

Policy, government relations and advocacy

The Alliance leads research and policy initiatives and forges powerful coalitions. We create pathways to advance healthy public policy and address broader social, economic and environmental factors that support health and wellbeing. We work with members and partners to influence policy changes on a variety of issues, from capital funding and compensation for members' staff to raising minimum wage and improving access to oral health care for everyone in Ontario.

How do we do it?

- We maintain strong relationships across the health system and sit at a wide range of policy tables.
- We work with government at strategic and operational levels to address concerns and advance policy. When necessary, we coordinate strategic advocacy campaigns.
- We spearhead a strong research program in partnership with academic institutions and staff from across our membership to garner relevant evidence.

- We share compelling evidence and stories of success to demonstrate that our members deliver better health outcomes and to convince decision makers to invest in our approach.

Training, knowledge sharing and capacity building

The Alliance facilitates a wide range of learning and capacity building opportunities for members to gain knowledge, share experiences and insights, and keep abreast of best practices in the delivery of comprehensive primary health care. We also provide regular updates on the latest developments related to the health policy landscape, emerging new issues, and community governance.

Members have access to knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities through a variety of forums, including our annual conference, professional learning events, online webinars, customized workshops, teleconferences, professional networking opportunities, online research databases and our secure member portal.

Performance Management / Information Management (PM/IM)

Advancing our shared policy agenda and ensuring continuous quality improvement requires a rigorous and consistent approach to data collection and dissemination. This commitment is at the core of our groundbreaking Performance Management and Information Management Strategy.

Our priority is to ensure members have access to tools, resources and supports to gather high-quality data through their Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems. Our award-winning Business Intelligence Reporting Tool (BIRT) allows them to focus on continuous quality improvement and client-centered care. The Alliance is committed to working with EMR and BIRT vendors on members' behalf, and we ensure members stay abreast of PM/IM best practices and innovative approaches through trainings, communities of practice and staff support.

Group Benefits

Working with our partner organizations – Addictions and Mental Health Ontario and the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario – the Alliance provides a comprehensive group benefit plan to our members. This plan includes extended health and dental coverage, life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, dependent life, weekly indemnity, long-term disability insurance and an employee assistance program. Our increased buying power means lower administration charges, which translates into reduced ongoing premiums for our members.



Together with members and partners, we deliver positive change: Alliance delegation at Queen's Park Lobby Day during Community Health and Wellbeing Week



Annual board liaison session brings together board representatives from Alliance members across the province, one of the many ways the Alliance facilitates information sharing and capacity building



The Alliance ensures members have access to tools and resources to improve data quality and strengthen its security, as well as measure outcomes and impacts in a more comprehensive way

Interested? Join us!

Join the Alliance for Healthier Communities and become part of the movement! Together we can realize our shared vision of the best possible health and wellbeing for everyone in Ontario.

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