NEWS RELEASE

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Health Quality Council of Alberta wants rural voice on patient safety panel

(Calgary, AB) – The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) is looking for Albertans to serve on a panel to promote patient safety across the healthcare system.

The Patient/Family Safety Advisory Panel is recruiting new members and is particularly interested in applicants from rural Alberta. Drawing from the experiences of a broad range of citizens, the purpose of the Panel is to improve and promote patient safety principles, concepts and actions in all aspects of Alberta's publically-funded healthcare system.

"The Panel has been providing input about how to improve patient safety since 2011," says Dr. John Cowell, Chief Executive Officer for the HQCA. "As part of our Provincial Safety Framework strategy, we have been listening to Albertans' experiences and perspectives about their healthcare system and this dialogue will continue to play an important part in making healthcare in Alberta safer for all."

The Panel has a current membership of eight people. The HQCA is looking to recruit a further three members from outside of Calgary and Edmonton. Applicants must be 18 years or older, reside in Alberta and have a stake in a safer healthcare system for all. The panel meets six times a year, alternating between Calgary and Edmonton at no expense to members.

The Panel's mandate is to identify, study, review, advocate and advise the HQCA on patient safety and quality issues from a citizen, patient and family perspective. Albertans have until April 15, 2013 to express their interest in joining the Panel. More information can be found at www.hqca.ca or by calling 403-297-8162.

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