



## News Release

March 23, 2011

**Health Quality Council of Alberta announces an Advisory Panel for the independent review of the quality of care and safety of patients requiring access to emergency department care and cancer surgery and the role and process of physician advocacy**

(Calgary, AB)...The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) has named a five-member Advisory Panel to provide advice and counsel to the HQCA Council or chief executive officer in its review of the quality of care and safety of patients requiring access to emergency department care and cancer surgery and the role and process of physician advocacy.

Advisory Panel members are:

- Zaheer Lakhani, CM, MD, FRCP, cardiologist with the Royal Alexandra Hospital and clinical professor, University of Alberta Department of Medicine
- The Honourable A. Anne McLellan, P.C., O.C., strategic adviser with Bennett Jones LLP and Liberal Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre from October 25, 1993 to January 23, 2006. Anne McLellan served as Federal Minister in several federal ministries including Minister of Health and Deputy Prime Minister.
- Art Price, P.Eng, chairman and chief executive officer, Axia NetMedia Corporation and executive director, founder and principle owner, The Sunterra Group
- Simon B. Sutcliffe, MD, FRCP, president of the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research and past president of the BC Cancer Agency
- The Honourable Allan H. Wachowich, Q.C., LL.D., former Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta (2000–2009)

Panel members were selected based on their credentials and expertise in areas which include, but are not limited to, legal, ethics, cancer care and emergency department care. "I am confident the Advisory Panel brings proven experience, and diverse knowledge that should ensure public confidence in the process being used by the HQCA Council as we move through the review," said HQCA Council Chair Dr. Lorne Tyrrell. Adds Dr. John Cowell: "As chief executive officer of the HQCA, I am pleased we will have access to this distinguished group of individuals to provide support and advice as we conduct this review."

The purpose of the review is to identify and analyze issues related to the quality of care and safety of patients requiring access to emergency department care and cancer surgery and the role of physician advocacy and make recommendations to improve system performance. The independent review will be provincial in scope and will be conducted under section 9 of the *Alberta Evidence Act* to maintain evidentiary privilege over the provision of documents and evidence of participants. Alberta Health and Wellness Minister Gene Zwozdesky requested the review under section 13 of the *Health Quality Council of Alberta Regulation*.

As an independent organization legislated under the *Regional Health Authorities Act*, the Health Quality Council of Alberta gathers and analyzes information and collaborates with Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Health Services, health professions and other stakeholders to translate that knowledge into practical improvements to health service quality and patient safety in the health care system.

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**Backgrounder follows:** Advisory Panel member biographies

**For more information, please contact:**

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