



ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
ON GERONTOLOGY

Improving the Lives of Older Albertans

2021 – 2022

Annual Report

June 2022

Alberta Association on Gerontology (AAG)
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been a time of transition for all Albertans including members of AAG. We all continue to deal with the effects of the pandemic and its ongoing waves, only recently starting to diminish in intensity. As we look back, we can see that these past two years have highlighted both deficiencies and opportunities in the system of care and services for seniors and their families. AAG continues to fulfill its role as a province-wide interdisciplinary organization that seeks to enhance the lives of older adults; however, our focus on policy advocacy increased significantly this year and the methods we used to engage with people have been entirely online.

AAG was pleased to contribute to the Alberta Health MNP report for Alberta Health, *Improving Quality of Life in Facility-Based Continuing Care*, which lays the foundation for transformative change. The report's recommendations complement the *Healthy Aging Initiative* for community-based senior services sponsored by Alberta Seniors & Housing. These two major initiatives provided the perfect opportunity for AAG and its partners to create the **Futures Policy Forum**. As approved by the Board, the objectives of AAG's initiative are to:

- identify the important policy changes necessary to transform services for older Albertans towards the recommended vision in a culture of healthy aging.
- provide evidence, research findings, and practices related to the transformative changes.
- provide a forum for discussion of proposed changes and suggest methods for removing barriers to implementation.
- advocate for the implementation of transformative changes and provide impetus and support for ongoing dialogue and review.
- provide an ongoing forum to discuss societal strategies necessary to respond to the environments facing aging adults in the next decades.

The AAG Futures Policy Forum (FPF) Initiative is a two-year process that includes a series of 8 webinars on high-priority topics featuring local, national, and international experts, clients, and discussants. Over 400 people registered for the first two foundational webinars that focussed first on issues and strategies in the continuing care system and then on the community-based services sector. The remaining 6 webinars will focus on key areas for transformation and culture change and are planned for June, September, October, November, January, and February. For information and registration visit <https://www.albertaaging.ca/futures-policy-2022>. Plans for other components of FPF include think tanks, public and stakeholder engagement opportunities, and a potential symposium.

The FPF initiative is only possible due to the dedication and strong leadership of Vivien Lai, Chair and Marlene Raasok, Vice-Chair. We are also very grateful to our sponsors, board members, and many partners who contribute to the work of our 43-member Stakeholder Collaborative Committee that provides oversight and inspiration. Our technical team of Andrea Dunne (Website Developer), Jordanna Bubar (Technology Support), Gail Kostiw (Communications Assistant) and Michelle Marusiak (Writer) has ensured our events are professionally executed. We appreciate their expertise and dedication in supporting this and all AAG's work in the past year.

Other AAG policy work included providing input to the newly tabled Alberta Bill 11 Continuing Care Act and the development of national Long Term Care Standards. Vivien and I presented a poster

at the virtual Canadian Association on Gerontology conference on successful public engagement in policy. We are also very proud of our newly designed website and online *AAGmag*, with many thanks to Sandi Hirst and Andrea Dunne.

Areas for AAG to address this year include increasing the awareness and relevance of AAG scholarships and awards, expanding, and communicating the value of membership, and addressing our organizational structure.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the AAG Board, Edmonton, and Calgary Chapter Boards, and all AAG members without whom we could not have accomplished so much. Special thanks to our retiring board members for their many years of enthusiastic and dedicated service – Grace Maier, Dorthe Flauer, and Renate Sainsbury.



Lynne Mansell
President
Alberta Association on Gerontology

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Goal 1 – Further refine governance and operational infrastructure of the Association.

Governance Committee

The goal of the Governance Committee remains to ensure transparency and integrity of our work as an Association. We recognize that technology influences all aspects of AAG in general and the work of our committee.

We would like to inform you that we have had several policies approved by the Board this past year including voting by email and Committee Terms of Reference specific to Goal 3 (Membership and Communications). One policy in development is specific to Honorarium (payment for guest speakers). All policies accepted by the Board have been incorporated into the Policy Manual of the Board. The Policy Manual itself is reviewed yearly for editing, strengths, and gaps.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Grace Maier and Chantelle Zimmer for their outstanding contribution to the work of this Committee. We meet monthly and such meetings require a time commitment and often “homework”. Their sense of purpose contributes strongly to the work of this Committee and to AAG.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandi Hirst RN, PhD
Chair

Goal 2 – To support the creation of forums and opportunities for policy discussion and development to improve the quality of life of older adults by collaborating with other stakeholders and community at large.

Policy Committee

The past year has been one of advocacy related to major change initiatives nationally and provincially. The year began with a submission to the national initiative to develop standards for long-term care.

Our major initiative has revolved around reviewing and commenting on the MNP report released by Alberta Health, April 2021, *Improving Quality of Life for Residents in Facility-Based Continuing Care*, and provincial strategies related to Healthy Aging in the Community.

Building on the success of work related to Vision 2020, AAG launched a major strategic undertaking: ***its Futures Policy Forum Initiative, to foster a culture and community for transformative change toward the vision for healthy aging and quality of life described in the full transformation opportunity for Alberta included in the MNP report.***

Vivien Lai joined the Policy Committee as the Lead for this initiative. Activities have included:

- Sponsoring a Stakeholder Collaborative Committee to guide development and implementation of the Futures Policy Forum
- Planning and implementing monthly webinars on topics important to Alberta's transformation opportunities and developing policy advocacy initiatives like future think tanks.
- Developing a case study approach to guide our ability to track outcomes & learn as we go.
- The Futures Policy Initiative will continue in Fall 2022 and into 2023!

This Committee also contributed to a major update of AAG's website to feature the Futures Policy Forum Initiative.

Check it out (<https://www.albertaaging.ca/futures-policy-forum/>)

Report submitted by,



Marlene Raasok, Chair since April 2022
Michelle Marusiak, Chair until March 2022

Goal 3 – Increase the visibility and profile of the AAG.

Membership & Communications Committee

Priority Activities

The purpose of the Membership and Communication Committee is to support the recruitment and retention of AAG membership and to promote the activities of the Association to the general public. Specifically, it is designated to address Goal 3 of the AAG strategic plan.

Our Key Activities:

- Supported the redesign of the AAG website to increase accessibility and user experience
- Supported the adoption of enhanced digital communications to members via MailChimp
- Supported communication efforts related to the Futures Policy Forum, including opportunities to expand AAG membership

Looking Ahead:

- Continue support of Futures Policy Forum activities and collaboration with the Stakeholder Collaborative Committee
- Consultation with AAG membership to enhance and refine member benefits
- Continue work on member experience optimization in collaboration with AAG contractors and Board

The Membership and Communication Committee would like to acknowledge the contributions made by our committee members, Dr. Haidong Liang, Dorte Flauer, Renate Sainsbury, Lydia Shiao, and Adrienne Richard, along with the rest of the AAG board and contractors. We would also like to express gratitude for the continued support of AAG's membership for our work, and encourage members with an interest in communications, media, public relations, and outreach to connect with us for future collaboration.

If you are interested in participating in this work or have any feedback about how the AAG can better serve you as a member, you can contact Adrienne Richard at arichard@heartlandhousing.ca

Report submitted by,



Adrienne Richard
Committee Chair

NEWSLETTER

In late winter of 2021, the decision was made by the Board of the Alberta Association on Gerontology, to reimage its newsletter, *AAGmag*, and distribute it online only. This reflects the effectiveness of delivery and user feedback on their preferred style of the newsletter. We are hoping that our new format will provide our readers with the ability to be selective in their reading.

The receipt of information of benefit to our members remains a high priority for the newsletter and AAG. It would be helpful for readers to continue to provide feedback as to the type of content they would like to receive and to submit the information that might be useful to their colleagues across this province. If you are interested in doing a quarterly column for *AAGmag*, please let me know. I would be most interested in supporting this idea.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Andrea, our webmaster, and Gail, our administrative support, for their contribution to the publication and distribution of the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandi Hirst RN, PhD
Editor, *AAGmag*

NOMINATIONS FOR 2022/2023 PROVINCIAL BOARD

The bylaws of AAG outline that the Provincial Board of Directors be composed of a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of sixteen (16) members of the Association. This includes officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary), the Past-President (during the first term of the President), members-at-large, and one representative from each Chapter (appointed by the Chapter; usually the Chapter Chair).

Thank You to all Members Leaving the Board:

Dorthe Flauer
Haidong Liang
Grace Maier
Michelle Marusiak
Adrienne Richard
Renate Sainsbury

Members at Large Remaining on the Board:

Sandi Hirst
Marlene Raasok
Lydia Shiao
Catarina Versaevel
Vacant (6)

Chapter Chairs Represented on the Board:

Calgary Chapter – Dorothy Chacinski
Edmonton Chapter – Jennifer Chan

Proposed Officers:

President: Lynne Mansell
Vice President: Chantelle Zimmer *
Secretary: Sharon Anderson
Treasurer: French Lau*

*Pending endorsement of nomination slate

In the 2020 bylaw revisions, a board member can be elected for a one-year (new) or two-year term and normally does not serve more than two consecutive terms or four years total, except by special vote. There are six Board vacancies for 2022/2023.



Nominations Slate (all for 2-year terms):

Kathleen Hunter

French Lau

Barry Pendergast

Heather Tomlinson

Chantelle Zimmer

Report submitted by

Grace Maier

AAG Vice President

Chair, Nominations Committee



AAG MEMBERSHIP

June 2, 2022

AAG Membership	2018-2019 YTD	2019-2020 YTD	2020-2021 YTD	2021-2022 YTD	2022-2023 YTD
Chapter					
Edmonton Chapter	66	54	44	47	48
Calgary Chapter	47	35	24	36	28
None	12	10	19	23	11
Total for Province	125	99	87	106	87
Membership Type					
Individual	45	32	20	32	25
Organizational	31	19	12	17	19
Senior	6	9	16 (2 prorated)	18	26
Student	22	17	15	12	9
Lifetime (Honorary)	21	22	24	1	8
Total Memberships	125	99	87	106	87

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Sandra Hirst stepped back from the Scholarship Committee Chair position in November 2021, and the position was accepted by me. Many thanks to Sandra for passing along the well-organized application packages and application evaluation forms.

Two additional members, Mohamed El-Hussein (Calgary Chapter) and Simon Palfreyman (Edmonton Chapter) joined the committee. Scholarship applications were reviewed by these two members as the Chair had to declare a conflict of interest. The committee gathered the nominations for the Mary Morrison Davis Award, which were adjudicated by the AAG Board.

Mary Morrison Davis Award – Dr. Carole Estabrooks

Provincial Scholarship - awarded to Trina Thorne (Ph.D. studies)

Edmonton Chapter Scholarship– awarded to Fernanda Lais Fengler Dal Pizzol (Ph.D. Studies)

Calgary Chapter Scholarship– no applications

Bursary – no applications

Applications may have been affected by ongoing changes and disruptions experienced at some post-secondary sites over the past year. Over the summer, I will be reviewing and drafting an updated policy guide for the committee, including when conflicts of interest arise. This work will be reviewed by the two committee members and passed on to the board to review and determine if it meets the organization's needs. We will start sending out information for the 2023 competition in the fall. As well, I will be working with the Board and the AAG Futures Policy Forum leadership to review the Bursary award.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Hunter

CHAPTER REPORTS

EDMONTON

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of preparing the annual report is that it provides me the opportunity to look back and be thankful for the year. The past year has been filled with many ongoing challenges and wonderful opportunities.

The highlights for our chapter this year are:

- Assisted the provincial treasurer in the consolidation of the chapter funds, to transfer to one funding model for AAG
- Continued to strengthen our membership, supporting AAG Goal 3 in increasing our visibility, particularly in the general public as we continued to push for an event with a topic that was relevant to people.
- Continued support in providing Chapter representation of the scholarship award – represented by Simon Palfreyman.
- Continued funding support in the scholarship of \$1,000.

Last Fall, in September, with the support of the provincial chapter, the Edmonton Chapter led a virtual event with International Speaker Dr. Bei Wu from NYU, College of Nursing. Dr. Wu presented her recent literature on the prevalence of social isolation and loneliness among older adults in the U.S.; research findings on the impact of social isolation and loneliness on health outcomes; and approaches to decrease social isolation and loneliness. The event garnered more than 100 attendees with some attendees from other provinces.

As our chapter is hearing more openness and interest in holding an in-person event, we are looking forward to our first joint networking dinner event with Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association (AGNA), Edmonton Chapter sometime in fall 2022. Pending any future public health guidelines, this will be our first face-to-face event since 2019.

Our chapter aims to continue to support Goal 3.

Report submitted by,



Jennifer Mabugat Chan,
AAG Edmonton Chapter Chair



AAG Edmonton Chapter Board

Role	Name	Term*	Details
President	Jennifer Chan	2 nd term, 3 rd year	Board member since 2017, president since 2018
Vice-President	Vacant		
Secretary	Sarah Lucas	2 nd term, 2 nd year	Board member since 2018
Treasurer Liaison/ Member at Large	Simon Palfreyman	2 nd term, 4 th year	Board member since 2016
Member at Large	Noelannah Neubauer	2 nd term, 2 nd year	Board member since 2018
Member at Large	Minn Yoon	2 nd term, 2 nd year	Board member since 2018
Member at large	Beth Wilkey	2 nd term, 1 st year	Board member since 2020
Member at Large	Antonio Miguel Cruz	2 nd term, 1 st year	Board member since 2020
Lead for Student Representative	Saleema Allana	1 st term, 2 nd year	Board member since 2021

*2-year terms

CALGARY

This past year was one of growth for the Calgary Chapter with the addition of seven new board members, and learnings from working virtually throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chapter was able to offer online educational events for AAG members and the public that aimed to redress ageism towards older adults, which is a prevalent societal issue that was prominent during the pandemic.

Events

The Calgary Chapter hosted two events on February 17 and May 9, 2022, featuring speakers from our region. Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, Head and Professor of the Department of Medicine at the University of Calgary, presented “The Impacts of Ageism on Canadian Society.” This talk focused on some of the issues that Canada will face as our population continues to age, particularly in the realm of healthcare. It also highlighted how ageism in Canadian society is hindering our ability to prepare for these changes. A recording of the presentation can be viewed on the [AAG YouTube Channel](#).

Mitzi Murray, Executive Director of THIRD ACTION Film Festival, presented on “Ageism & the Media.” This interactive talk included four short films that were a powerful illustration of how media can shape our attitudes towards older adults, sparking thoughtful discussion among the attendees. We encourage you to watch these films, which can be found on the [AAG website](#).

A total of 217 and 93 people registered for our events respectively, reflecting a high level of interest in these important topics. The majority of registrants were from Calgary and other areas of Alberta, though some were from across Canada and beyond. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to our board members who made these events possible. In addition, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to AAG members and the public who attended our events. Your engagement in our Chapter activities is vital to the AAG achieving its mission.

The Calgary Chapter looks forward to continuing to advance the quality of life and healthy aging among older adults in 2022-23.

Board Members

Three board members recently completed their time with the Chapter: Kirsten Nelson (treasurer), Kimberly McCann (member at large), and Seema King (student representative). I would like to thank them for their invaluable contributions to our activities. I wish you the best with your future endeavors. My time as Chair is also nearing an end as I transition to the Provincial Board. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and enjoyed working with each of our board members. The accomplishments of the Chapter reflect our teamwork and commitment. I wish the Calgary Chapter success in the year ahead.

Six board members will be continuing in office, members at large, and student representative roles for 2022-23. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Dorothy Chacinski who accepted the nomination to be Chair.

Report submitted by,

Chantelle Zimmer

Chantelle Zimmer
AAG Calgary Chapter Chair

Role	Name	Term*
Chair	Chantelle Zimmer	1 st term, 1 st year
Secretary	Dorothy Chacinski	1 st term, 1 st year
Treasurer	Kirsten Nelson	2 nd term, 1 st year
Member at Large	Linda McFarlane	1 st term, 1 st year
Member at Large	Sophie Sapergia	1 st term, 1 st year
Member at Large	Jenna Naylor	1 st term, 1 st year
Member at Large	John Vaillancourt	2 nd term, 1 st year
Member at Large	Kimberly McCann	2 nd term, 1 st year
Student Representative	Brooklynn Fernandes	1 st term, 1 st year
Student Representative	Seema King	1 st term, 1 st year

*2-year terms

PROVINCIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

for the Year Ended March 31

(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Networking events	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -
Memberships	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 7,897.00
Investment Income	\$ 384.51	\$ 149.71
Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,135.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,444.51	\$ 9,181.71
EXPENSES		
Networking events	\$ 1,365.00	\$ -
Student awards	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Administration	\$ 4,654.84	\$ 3,072.84
Consulting	\$ -	\$ 6,693.75
Insurance	\$ 2,224.00	\$ 1,050.00
Membership	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Honorarium	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 208.95	\$ 5.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,552.79	\$ 15,821.59
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (3,108.28)	\$ (6,639.88)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 90,613.34	\$ 97,253.22
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 87,505.06	\$ 90,613.34



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As Of March 31

(Unaudited)

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 62,109.53	\$ 65,596.96
Short Term Investments	\$ 25,395.53	\$ 25,016.38
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 87,505.06	\$ 90,613.34
LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$ -
NET ASSETS	\$ 87,505.06	\$ 90,613.34
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 87,505.06	\$ 90,613.34



ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
ON GERONTOLOGY

Improving the Lives of Older Albertans

May 24th, 2022

To: The Alberta Association on Gerontology

We have reviewed the account of the Alberta Association on Gerontology (AAG) Provincial Board for the fiscal year March 31st, 2022 and find the submitted financial statement to be substantially correct. Deposits and bank statements have been found to balance correctly.

Bruce West, AAG Member

Date

Dorthe Flauer, AAG Member

Date

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Alberta Association on Gerontology



Strategic Plan

2020 - 2023



Alberta Association on Gerontology's (AAG) three-year strategic plan for 2020 -2023 identifies three major goals and numerous priority activities under each goal. Working groups will be formed to support the activities. These goals and activities were identified through a strategic planning session comprised of AAG provincial board members, Edmonton Chapter and Calgary Chapter board members, and key representatives from AAG past presidents and Mary Morrison Davis Award recipients. Goals are overarching and priority activities include short-term as well as long-term outcomes. The strategic plan will be reviewed annually to assess progress and revise as activities are completed.

Vision

To be recognized as a forum for facilitating the development of social and health policy related to older adults in Alberta by providing opportunities for others to be involved in discussions that leads to policy recommendations and actions.

Mission Statement

In the spirit of collaboration and open communications, AAG enhances the quality of life of older adults who are engaged, empowered, and enabled, living in inclusive communities with social connections through supporting research, influencing innovative policy and stimulating and promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practice among the public, experts, service providers and government.

Mandate

AAG is a province-wide interdisciplinary organization that facilitates:

- Knowledge transfer related to evidence informed practice in gerontology.
- Knowledge creation including student scholarships and support for research.
- Professional networking and shared interest in older adults and gerontological issues.
- Opportunities and inspiration for forward thinking and innovation in policies improving the quality of life and quality of services for older adults.



1. Goal 1: Further refine the governance and operational *infrastructure* of the Association.

Priority Activities:

- 1.1. Completed bylaw review/revision and tabled at the 2020 AAG AGM.
- 1.2. Address board succession planning by developing
 - 1.2.1. Strategy to facilitate “seamless” transition in executive positions; including staggering of terms to support continuity of Association intellect
 - 1.2.1. Strategy to attract new board members
 - 1.2.2. Strategy to identify members interested in being on working committees to carry out work of the Association. Create a database of members’ areas of interest.
- 1.3. Update and revise the Board Operations Manual: (including membership renewal process/procedures, and annual review of membership fees).
- 1.4. Review the governance relationship between the Provincial board and the Chapters.
- 1.5. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Executive Committee and formalize the terms of reference and the responsibilities of the Executive Committee.
- 1.6. Develop outcomes/impact measurements for reporting to the membership, including in grant applications and sharing through promotional materials and tools (website).

2. Goal 2: To support the creation of forums and opportunities for policy discussion and development to improve the quality of life of older adults by collaborating with other stakeholders and the community at large.

Priority Activities:

- 2.1. Support Chapter activities by coordinating Provincial and Chapter events; create an annual schedule of Provincial and Chapter events.
- 2.2. Co-host meetings, workshops, and conferences with other organizations (e.g., partners involved in Vision 2030).
- 2.3. Explore and develop partnerships with identified stakeholders to work in collaboration on AAG initiatives.
- 2.4. Building on the outcomes of Vision 2030, engage Vision 2030 participants and AAG members in follow-up workshops, policy development discussions, research activities, and other actions to address the Vision

2030 recommendations.

3. Goal 3: Increase the *visibility and profile* of AAG.

Priority Activities:

- 3.1. Membership review
 - 3.1.1. Review the benefits of the prorated membership drive for effectiveness and possible continuation of this strategy
 - 3.1.2. Review the impact of the membership fee increase on member recruitment.
 - 3.1.3. Develop further strategies for the renewal of current and past members
 - 3.1.4. Engage with participants from Vision 2030 to consider becoming members and engaging in AAG activities

- 3.2. Maximize the benefits of the website as a vehicle for communication to the membership.
 - 3.2.1. Continue to monitor and develop content for sharing on the website.
 - 3.2.2. Embed the link for the Vision 2030 website to the AAG website.

- 3.3. Develop a strategy to profile AAG as a reputable resource on aging issues.
 - 3.3.1. Develop a media strategy – how to engage with media
 - 3.3.2. Develop a practice of preparing media announcements for AAG hosted events and papers that AAG releases.
 - 3.3.2.1. Develop key messages for reports
 - 3.3.2.2. Indicate key spokesperson for media contact

- 3.4. Develop a social media strategy as a cornerstone of communication to profile the Association.
 - 3.4.1. Review the analytics to monitor frequency and engagement quality
 - 3.4.2. Be deliberate with frequency, timing, and the quality of the posts