

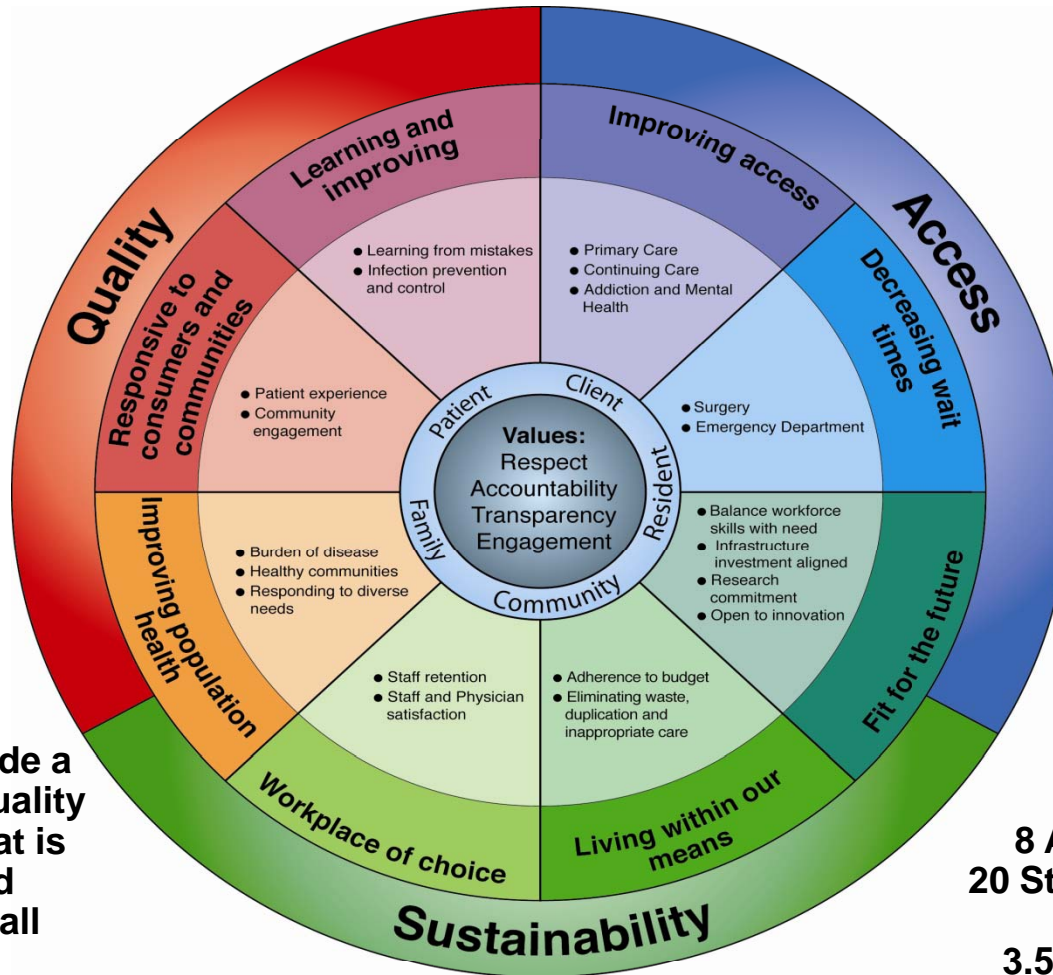
# **AHS Recommendations for Legislative Reform**

**Presented by**

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## What are we trying to achieve:



**Mission:** To provide a patient-focused quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

**3 Goals**  
**8 Areas of focus**  
**20 Strategic priorities**  
**4 Values**  
**3.5 million people**

# Our Key Strategic Directions

- Patient/ client focus
- Emphasis on wellness
- Shifting care to the community
- Right care, right place, right provider
- Primary care emphasis
- Enabling people to take responsibility for own health
- Ensuring seniors and people with disabilities are provided with services, opportunities which maximize independence
- Using all resources in most effective manner
- Using the skills of all health care providers to full scope of practice
- Enabling innovation to be quickly adopted and spread
- Giving providers information necessary to improve quality

# A Case for Legislative Change

- Many acts and regulations developed in a different era of health care
- Continual add-on of new acts has created a confusing *mélange*, with no discernible coherence
- Numerous barriers to moving forward, e.g. misaligned incentives, focus on inputs

## Vision for Legislation:

- Putting Albertans at the centre of a high quality sustainable health system
- Developing broad, facilitating legislation that focuses on quality
- Creating an 'Alberta Health Act' which inspires achievement for the future

# Alberta Health Act: 5 Principles

1. Honour Canada Health Act
2. Protection of vulnerable
3. Promotion of independence
4. Embrace innovation for an affordable future
5. Commitment to quality of service

## Barriers in Legislation

- Restrictions on where services are delivered, i.e. facility designation
- Prescriptive, detail on what is delivered, e.g. Nursing Homes Act
- Restrictions on sharing information, e.g. Evidence Act
- Innovation not facilitated

From:

1. Emphasis on Fragmentation




To:

Integration of the Health System

Considerations:

- The delivery of health care should be founded on a strong evidence base that focuses on outcomes.
- The integration that has occurred in the health system should be mirrored in legislation.

**From:**  
2. Emphasis on Inputs  **To:**  
Quality of Outcomes

Consideration:

Legislative framework should commit to:

- » quality
- » safety
- » focus on outcomes
- » fairness related to access
- » efficiency
- » timeliness

**From:**  
3. Emphasis on Place of Delivery of Care  **To:**  
Continuum of Service  
Delivery

Consideration:

- Legislation should support care being provided in the most appropriate setting while providing high quality care, including a seamless integrated continuum of care.

**From:**  
4. Emphasis on Specific Care Providers  **To:**  
Collaborative  
Practice/ Teams

Considerations:

- Legislation should support team-based, collaborative practice which enables all health care providers to utilize their full scope of skills.
- All care delivery should be provided by competent, knowledgeable practitioners to ensure quality and safety.

**From:**  
5. Emphasis on Restricting Knowledge  **To:**  
Sharing Knowledge to  
Improve Outcomes


Consideration:

- Ensure quality, safe care is provided in a way that respects confidentiality.
- Health care of the future should be information driven and information rich.

**From:**  
6. Emphasis on Current Practices  **To:**  
Enabling Innovation

Considerations:

- Adoption of evidence-based innovation should be facilitated. (A consistent, independent process and criteria should be utilized to judge the safety, quality and appropriateness of innovations.)
- Legislation should be capable of responding to changing technologies, demographics and consumer preferences.

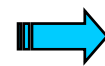
**From:**  
7. Emphasis on Health System  **To:**  
Patient/ Client Focus Supporting  
Independence & Individual  
Responsibility

Considerations:

- Legislation should place patients/clients at its center to both protect the vulnerable and to support independence.
- Legislation should provide for consumer choice based on informed decisions.

**From:**

8. Emphasis on Controlling Market Place



**To:**

Clarity of Role of  
Health Care

Considerations:

- Reaffirm principles of Canada Health Act so that parameters for publicly funded health services are clear.
- Recognize role of private and non-government organizations in service delivery within Canada Health Act framework.

**From:**  
9. Emphasis on Command and Control  **To:**  
Enabling Regulatory  
Framework

Consideration:

- Legislation should be as restrictive as it needs to be - but no more. (Quality, safety, flexibility and innovation should guide attaining a shift from a command and control legislative focus to one that takes into account quality outcomes, market mechanisms and self-regulation where appropriate.)

# Measures of Success

- Quality, access and sustainability of the health system
- People know what to expect from the health system
  - Waitlist guarantee
  - Same day access for primary care
- People are able to fully participate in their own health care
  - People have access to personal information that enable them to take more responsibility in their own care.

## Examples of what Alberta Health Act would look like:

- Honour Canada Health Act ➡ No user charges in hospitals
- Protection of vulnerable ➡ Accreditation/inspection of residential care facilities
- Promotion of independence ➡ ditto
- Embrace innovation for an affordable future ➡ processes for assessment on new technologies
- Commitment to quality of service ➡ Requirement for quality processes, HQCA

## Next Steps

- Suggest:
  - Draft legislation should be visionary, clear, in plain English
    - Perhaps Alberta Health Act written by this Committee
  - Align other legislation, regulations, accreditation, collective agreements, etc. with Alberta Health Act
  - Need mechanisms to ensure legislation is actually implemented i.e. eliminate old legislation