

Social Accountability Decision Making Council – call for applications

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD) at the University of Alberta is establishing a new way for members of the general public to provide input into our activities. We are seeking visionary and dedicated community leaders to become the founding members of a new Social Accountability Decision Making Council. This is a unique opportunity not only to participate, but also to help build the foundation of how the FoMD partners with and serves our communities for years to come.

Being socially accountable means that, as a faculty, we seek to identify and take action on the priority health concerns of the people we serve. This responsibility is articulated in our [vision, mission and strategic plan](#). In order to deliver on this commitment, we are establishing the Social Accountability Decision Making Council (SADMC) – a new, community-comprised body designed to provide direct input into our work on social accountability. This council is one step towards ensuring we are accountable to the diverse populations we serve. There will be a particular focus on reducing health inequities through aligning our education, research and service activities with community-identified priorities. This work will require the SADMC to work collaboratively with members of the community, people working at the University of Alberta, and other health system leaders. We will also be working to develop ways to track outcomes and measure impact.

Recognition of committee members' work will be determined on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the nature and scope of each individual's involvement. It may include one or more of the following:

- Annual stipend for ongoing contributions to the Social Accountability Unit.
- Honoraria for participation in engagement sessions or committee meetings, including associated pre- and post-work.
- Expense reimbursement for accessibility-related or other costs such as parking fees, data charges, childcare, transportation services, or communication supports.

There will be participation from the Wâpanachakos Indigenous Health Program and the Office of Rural & Regional Health, ensuring that perspectives from Indigenous, and rural and remote communities are reflected in the discussion. Accordingly, the Wâpanachakos Indigenous Health Program and the Office of Rural & Regional Health will each select one committee member to share their perspectives and experiences. No single individual can fully represent the breadth of voices within an entire community, so part of this work will be learning how to ensure diverse perspectives are included and valued at the faculty level.

For more information on social accountability within the FoMD, please visit the social accountability page [here](#).

As we establish this council, we are seeking to fill the following inaugural positions:

- **Community Member, African, Black and Caribbean community (1 position)**
- **Community Member-at-Large (up to 3 positions)**

Open positions

We are looking for individuals who can bring their voice, experience and vision to help launch this critical initiative.

1. Community Member, African, Black and Caribbean community (1 position)

In alignment with the University of Alberta's commitment to the Scarborough Charter, we are seeking a member from an African, Black, or Caribbean community. Your perspective will be vital in establishing the council's direction and ensuring that the priorities of these communities are embedded in our social accountability work.

2. Community Members-at-Large (up to 3 positions)

We are seeking up to three members to help us build a council that represents the rich diversity of people served by the FoMD. As a council member, you will share your perspectives and experiences, as relevant to the FoMD mandate.

Your role

As a founding member, you will play a critical role in not only carrying out these responsibilities but also in shaping how the council will fulfill them:

- **Establish strategic direction:** Help set the priorities and long-term vision for the FoMD's Social Accountability Unit.
- **Define community engagement:** Co-create the processes for identifying community needs and ensuring the FoMD's programs are responsive.
- **Cultivate a new culture:** Champion and help embed a culture of social accountability across the FoMD from the council's inception.
- **Shape resource allocation:** Provide critical initial advice on how resources within the Social Accountability Unit should be allocated to support key initiatives.
- **Set the standard:** Help establish the council's methods for monitoring impact and promoting best practices in social accountability.

Who we're looking for

- A strong connection to and understanding of one or more communities that the FoMD serves.
- A passion for health equity and community-centered care.
- An enthusiasm for helping to build a new initiative from its initial stages.
- The ability to think strategically and work collaboratively to establish a shared vision.
- A willingness to share your perspective to help build a strong, effective and brave council.

Relationship: commitment & recognition

We are committed to making this work accessible and to valuing the expertise of our council members.

- **Reciprocity:** At the heart of this work is a commitment to reciprocity - an ongoing exchange rooted in mutual respect and shared purpose. This is not a transactional relationship, but a mutual gifting of time, wisdom and presence. We aim to foster a space where contributions are valued, and where the benefits flow in both directions, strengthening our collective impact.
- **Term:** The inaugural term for these positions is two years, with the possibility of a two-year renewal.
- **Meetings:** The council will meet four times per year (quarterly). Three meetings will be held virtually, and one will be an in-person/hybrid meeting.
- **Support:** A comprehensive orientation will be provided to all council members to collectively establish the council's operating procedures.

How to Apply

To apply to become a member of the SADMC, please submit a statement of interest outlining:

1. Which position you are applying for (African, Black and Caribbean Community Member or Community Member-at-Large).
2. How you are connected to a community or communities.
3. Why you are interested in this role and your vision for what a successful, community-led council could achieve.
4. Any relevant experience (professional or lived) that you feel would help in establishing this council.

Please submit your application by March 15, 2026 to: safomd@ualberta.ca

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed by a screening sub-committee made up of members from the existing [Social Accountability Steering Committee](#). Short-listed candidates will be invited for an informal interview to discuss their vision for the council and to provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the SADMC or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us at safomd@ualberta.ca.