

ALBERTA INNOVATES – HEALTH SOLUTIONS

The Government of Alberta is making changes to Alberta’s provincially funded research and innovation system to better align resources, have the system be more responsive to the needs of the business and research community, and more competitive in the global economy.

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions (“AIHS”) is a new provincial corporation which will support research and innovation activities aligned to Government of Alberta priorities to improve the health and well-being of Albertans and create, through innovation, health related social and economic benefits for Albertans. AIHS will provide leadership for Alberta’s health research and innovation enterprise by directing, coordinating, reviewing, funding and supporting research and innovation.

The key functions of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research are being transformed to this new organization.

AIHS will become a priority-driven, proactive, outcomes-focused health research and innovation management organization. Health research should lead to increased knowledge, contribute to capacity building, improve health and related social outcomes, enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the health system and provide economic benefits in Alberta. The focus will be making quality investments relevant to system needs and priorities to create value in the following ways:

- Investing in excellence based on the standards for world class health research;
- Focusing investments in areas of priorities that support our strengths and/or provide a unique opportunity (jurisdictional advantage) for Alberta ;
- Optimizing the capture of health, societal and economic benefits from investments in health research through innovation;
- Demonstrating accountability and impact of investments in health research through performance management; and
- Enhancing the potential to support and facilitate private sector health research and innovation in the province.

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions Organization Overview and Board Member Profile

The following key outcomes are expected from these investments together with AIHS's efforts and leadership as part of the research and innovation community:

- Alberta will be recognized as a highly desirable jurisdiction for its effective, integrated and focused health research activities;
- Alberta will have increased knowledge creation and knowledge receptor/absorption capability within the research and innovation system;
- Alberta will be attractive to partners, investors and researchers who wish to see investments in high quality health research result in measurable health, economic and societal benefits and outcomes;
- Alberta will be able to create, and track, measureable health, societal and economic impacts from its health research investments, creating and capturing greater value per dollar of research expenditure than currently possible;
- Alberta will better align its health research activities to bridge the gap between basic discoveries and their application to the understanding of human health and wellness and the treatment and prevention of human disease;
- Alberta will see a greater number of high quality commercialization opportunities result from its investment in health research, therefore enhancing its knowledge-based economy.

The AIHS Board will be a competency based board and will comprise of up to 12 individuals drawn from both the private and public sectors. The board competency matrix is as follows:

- ***Core Qualities / Personal Traits (applies to all Board Members)***

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| ✓ Integrity and accountability | ✓ Broad perspective – “big picture strategic thinker” |
| ✓ Adaptability | ✓ Commitment (including ability to apply necessary time and effort) |
| ✓ Sound judgment | ✓ Independence / impartiality |
| ✓ Strong interpersonal skills (team player, collegial, collaborative) | ✓ Experience synthesizing complex data and ideas into clearly articulated frameworks and strategies |
| ✓ Effective communicator | |
| ✓ Courage of convictions | |
| ✓ Impact and influence | |
| ✓ Creativity and passion for innovation | |

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- ***Business / Technical Expertise (aggregate for the Board as a whole)***
 - ✓ Understanding of health research and health care funding
 - ✓ Understanding the link between health / bio medical research and innovation
 - ✓ Comprehensive understanding of the research and innovation landscape (regional, national, international)
 - ✓ Understanding of the academic environment and its culture
 - ✓ Public service healthcare experience
 - ✓ Competency in establishing a new business or industry in Alberta (new venture establishment)
 - ✓ Served on other public / private sector boards
 - ✓ Executive business or senior management roles
 - ✓ Understanding of relationship between base research and industry
 - ✓ Financial literacy – financial statements; accounting and audit; and risk management.
 - ✓ Financing and investment management
 - ✓ Functional skills - strategic planning; human resource management; communications; marketing; and information technology
 - ✓ Understanding of good corporate governance

- ***Other (aggregate for the Board as a whole)***
 - ✓ Consensus building / conflict resolution skills
 - ✓ Knowledge of relevant legislation and regulatory requirements
 - ✓ Evaluation and performance assessment expertise
 - ✓ Public policy experience (and how government works)
 - ✓ Significant academic credentials
 - ✓ Extra-provincial experience or networks
 - ✓ Understanding of research and innovation for rural and aboriginal communities

Transitional priorities for the Board and Management include:

- Chief Executive Officer recruitment
- Preparation of a business plan
- Governance and operational policies
- Staffing (position descriptions, recruitment, pensions and benefits)
- Operational infrastructure and budget planning

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alberta Advanced Education and Technology:

<http://www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca/research/system/mandates.aspx>

OPPORTUNITY

This is an exciting opportunity to provide leadership for Alberta’s health research and innovation enterprise by directing, coordinating, reviewing, funding and supporting research and innovation. This will significantly improve the health and well-being of Albertans; and create, through innovation, health related social and economic benefits for Albertans.

The Government of Alberta is seeking applications and nominations for this Inaugural Board of Directors. Please apply in confidence to Hamilton Hall Soles/Ray & Berndtson Inc at <http://www.rayberndtson.ca/apply/8689> or email aihs@hhsrb.ca

Kevin J. Gregor
Partner

Kevin N. Hall
Partner

Hamilton Hall Soles/Ray & Berndtson Inc
403.410.6700
www.hhsrb.ca