



For Immediate Release

## **Health Quality Council of Alberta announces new Chief Executive Officer**

July 2, 2014

Calgary, AB – Dr. Tony Fields, Board Chair of the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA), today announced Mr. Andrew Neuner as the organization’s new Chief Executive Officer, effective September 8, 2014.

Mr. Neuner is an accomplished and visionary healthcare executive leader. He has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare, most recently with Interior Health in British Columbia, one of the largest health regions in Canada, where he is Vice President, Community Integration.

“The HQCA Board of Directors is very pleased to welcome Mr. Neuner to the HQCA. We are confident that his extensive skills, breadth of experience, and passion for improving healthcare quality effectively position him to lead the HQCA into the future,” says Dr. Fields, Chair, HQCA Board of Directors. “The HQCA’s success in improving patient safety and health service quality in Alberta is dependent on our objective perspective of healthcare quality, effective collaboration with our stakeholders, and listening to the voice of Albertans. Mr. Neuner has the right skill set to meet these needs and continue the successful momentum our organization has gained since its inception 11 years ago.”

“The accomplishments of the HQCA to date are commendable, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to its future successes,” says Mr. Neuner. “I look forward to working with Alberta’s health service stakeholders to continue to seek improvements to quality and safety in healthcare for the benefit of all Albertans.”

In his outgoing role as Vice President, Community Integration at Interior Health, Mr. Neuner ensures that patients experience coordinated and continuous care among all community health services, including public health, community care, primary care, and mental health. He was previously Chief Operating Officer with Interior Health and Chief Executive Officer of Cornwall Hospital in Ontario. Mr. Neuner holds a Master of Arts in Leadership & Training, a Master of Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Health Services Administration.

A detailed biography for Mr. Neuner is available [here](#).

“We thank Patricia Pelton, Acting Chief Executive Officer for the HQCA, for her commitment to the HQCA over the last 10 months. Under her effective leadership the HQCA was able to smoothly navigate the organization through several significant



projects. She has demonstrated unwavering dedication to improving Alberta's health system and we are grateful for her contributions," says Dr. Fields.

Ms. Pelton will remain with the HQCA until September 7, 2014.

### **About the Health Quality Council of Alberta**

The HQCA's mandate is to promote and improve patient safety and health service quality on a province-wide basis. The organization gathers and analyzes information and collaborates with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, health professions, academia, and other stakeholders to translate that knowledge into practical improvements to health service quality and patient safety in the healthcare system. Its responsibilities are set forth in the Health Quality Council of Alberta Act:

- Measure, monitor, and assess patient safety and health service quality.
- Identify effective practices and make recommendations for the improvement of patient safety and health service quality.
- Assist in the implementation and evaluation of activities, strategies, and mechanisms designed to improve patient safety and health service quality.
- Survey Albertans on their experience and satisfaction with patient safety and health service quality.
- Assess or study matters respecting patient safety and health service quality.
- Appoint a panel and provide administrative support for health system inquiries, as directed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

For more information visit [www.hqca.ca](http://www.hqca.ca).

-30-

*Dr. Tony Fields is available for media interviews throughout the week. Media availability for Mr. Neuner will be coordinated at a later date.*

### **Media contact:**

Lisa Brake, Communications Lead

[lisa.brake@hqca.ca](mailto:lisa.brake@hqca.ca)

Office: 403-297-4091

Cell: 403-850-5067