



June 21, 2024

Mayor and Members of Leduc City Council
City of Leduc
1 Alexandra Park
Leduc, AB T9E 4C4

RE: Leduc Hub Association appoints new board; focused on returning overnight shelter & social services to Leduc

Dear Mayor and Councillors;

On behalf of the Leduc Hub Association, thank you for meeting with me over the last few weeks. These meetings were an early goal of mine since taking on the role of Chair of the Leduc Hub Association board. Your willingness to discuss candidly how we can collaborate to meet the needs of Leduc's vulnerable communities is encouraging.

A common theme in the meetings was a desire to see a renewed focus on governance. We hear these concerns. You'll be happy to know they align with the Hub's recent board renewal efforts. Increased awareness and understanding of the impact of Hub's closure—and the loss of the services and support our organization has offered over many years—prompted many to submit their names for consideration.

The newly appointed Leduc Hub Association Board comprises eight women, all dedicated community leaders committed to the principles of compassion, professionalism, and collaboration. We are excited to begin developing a new relationship with the City Council that builds on past learnings and offers a more valuable partnership into the future. Biographies of each board member are attached to this letter and are posted to leduchub.ca.

The Hub's refreshed governance board brings a diversity of experiences and skill sets to our discussions to support Leduc's homeless population, including:

- a local business leader and several successful entrepreneurs;
- a Registered Psychologist and mental health professional;
- a Registered Nurse and upcoming Doctor of Medicine;
- a public service oversight professional;
- a veteran administrator and financial professional;
- veteran disability service workers, and
- individual(s) with lived experience

Among our earliest priorities has been to complete a comprehensive review of the Hub's dozens of policies and procedures, which cover our organizational profile, general governance, finance and risk management, human resources, health and safety, program and client management, facility management, and records management. Our operational priority is to rebuild local capacity to provide shelter services in the City of Leduc and to help improve local access to related social services.

Between 2022 and 2023, the Hub saw a 60% growth in demand. In addition to shelter spaces, Leduc has a growing need for crisis diversion and community outreach services, access to transitional and supportive housing, and affordable homes. These findings have been reflected in several reports commissioned by the City. It's encouraging to see them also reflected in recent options administration has presented to council.

The recent opening of the Government of Alberta navigation centres serving Edmonton and Calgary downtown cores has prompted discussions about how smaller municipalities can build local capacity to provide more social services that improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness.

We encourage council to challenge any suggestion that Leduc cannot provide more and better social services.

The Hub has been a proven and trusted partner for the City of Leduc and the Government of Alberta for several years, and we stand ready to fill that role again. Last year, the Hub sheltered people for 3,400 sleeps, distributed more than 16,000 meals, and helped more than 300 people navigate access to essential social services like AISH and government IDs. We offered dignity through more than 1,800 shower and laundry services. Hub volunteers worked over 8,000 hours in the City of Leduc last year.

We applaud [city administration for its presentation of Life Safety Intervention Options for the Unhoused](#). When considering these options, we encourage Council to pursue a decision that serves its recent commitment to maintaining uninterrupted shelter services in Leduc.

We look forward to your ongoing leadership on this issue and building a new collaborative relationship.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dalke, Board Chair Leduc HUB Association

Cc:

Boyle Street Community Services
Brandon Lundy, MLA Leduc-Beaumont
City of Beaumont Mayor and Council
City of Edmonton, Mayor and Council
Derek Prohar, City Manager, City of Leduc
Hope Mission
Leduc-Beaumont Primary Care Network
Leduc Homeless Task Force
Leduc Downtown Business Association

Leduc County Mayor and Council
Leduc HUB Association, Board of Directors
Mustard Seed Edmonton
RCMP Leduc Detachment
REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
Town of Calmar Mayor and Council
Town of Devon Mayor and Council
Town of Thorsby Mayor and Council
Village of Warburg Mayor and Council

Attachment: Leduc Hub Association Board Member Biographies

Shannon Dalke, Chair

Shannon Dalke is a fixture in Leduc's business community. For the past twenty years, she has been co-owner of Rydal Construction. Shannon is also a certified birth doula, and since 2023 has owned and operated the Nurturing by Nature doula service.

Shannon serves on the Leduc Hub Association board, following an active role as a Hub volunteer and in service to her principles of altruism, support for the vulnerable, and positive change in communities.

Shannon and her husband have raised four children in Leduc, where they have lived since 2000.

Lisa Gatzke, Treasurer

Lisa Gatzke is an administrator at the Leduc Society for Christian Education and a bookkeeper at the Prairie Centre for Christian Education. She is also co-owner of Thunder Rolling, a local agricultural services company. Lisa is an experienced governance volunteer, having served on multiple boards for over 25 years.

Lisa serves on the Leduc Hub Association board as part of her lifelong calling to serve others and her commitment to positively impacting her community.

Lisa has lived in Leduc County for over 30 years, where she and her husband raised their two children.

Sandra Kerkhoff, Board Member

Sandra Kerkhoff has worked as a Child and Youth Care worker for over 25 years and as a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder support specialist for Leduc County Family & Community Support Services since 2011.

Sandra serves on the Leduc Hub Association board following an active role as a Hub volunteer, as part of a long history of voluntary community service in the region, including as a Board Member of the Minor Hockey Association, Recreation Board Member for the Town of Calmar, with Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada.

Sandra lives in Calmar with her husband of 36 years, with whom she shares two adult children.

Joanne Koopmans, Board Member

Joanne Koopmans is a Registered Psychologist and founder of Karunia Counselling. She has a Master's Degree in Marital and Family Therapy and more than 40 years of experience as an entrepreneur, community builder, and volunteer in the Leduc region. She is also a counselling service provider with Leduc's Family & Community Support Services.

Joanne serves on the Leduc Hub Association board to help bridge the gap between the needs of Leduc's vulnerable communities and the city's available resources and services and to build on her early contributions to the 2008-2011 discussions that informed the development of the Leduc Regional Hub.

Joanne has been married for 48 years and is a mother to five children and grandmother to eight children.

Melody Miners, Vice Chair

Melody Miners is a social justice advocate who draws on lived experience to offer governance guidance to the Leduc Hub Association board. Melody is currently pursuing a Business Administration Accounting designation.

Melody serves on the Leduc Hub Association board to support those experiencing homelessness and other social challenges, offering Melody an opportunity to take meaningful action and to help those less fortunate in the spirit of empathy and resilience.

Melody lives in Leduc, where she raises her two young children.

Lindsay Sellinger, Secretary

Lindsay Sellinger is an investigator with the Alberta Ombudsman, an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta charged with ensuring fair treatment in the public sector.

Lindsay holds a Joint Master's Degree in Social Work with Families and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is a Registered Social Worker with the Alberta College of Social Workers. Before her work with the Ombudsman's office, Lindsay worked in various roles with Children and Family Services, Community Living BC, and various non-profit organizations.

Lindsay serves on the Leduc Hub Association board to help resume shelter operations and ensure access to respectful and dignified social services for all in the community.

Lindsay lives in Beaumont with her husband and stepson.

Shauna Smith, Board Member

Shauna Smith is a passionate humanitarian who has been a Disability Service worker since 2010, supporting adults with developmental disabilities. Shauna also has 25 years of experience in the service industry and has volunteered with the Hub since it was established in a local church.

Shauna serves on the Leduc Hub Association board because the Hub's mission aligns with the values of compassion, dignity, family and community and to offer everyone in Leduc essential living support.

Shauna has lived in Leduc for nearly 30 years, where she enjoys spending time with her husband and three adult daughters.

Nicole Weir, Board Member

Nicole Weir is a Registered Nurse specializing in emergency room services and will soon graduate from medical school as a physician in 2025. Nicole is driven by a personal commitment to help advocate for all those in need, and he volunteered for several years with the Hub and the Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.

Nicole serves on the Leduc Hub Association board to give back to her community and to leverage the skills she gained while serving as the Hub's volunteer coordinator to help the organization increase its role in Leduc.