

Partners in health: Master agreement

After CHAA members dedicated more than a century to developing infrastructure and delivering hospital and long-term care services in under-served areas of the province, in 1994 the Alberta government entered into a master agreement with CHAA to formally recognize the long-standing role of faith-based, not-for-profit (NFP) organizations in health services planning and delivery. This master agreement is still in force today and ensures CHAA member organizations retain their role as essential health system partners.

The master agreement, and subsequent cooperation and services agreements, articulate the terms and conditions under which faith-based NFP organizations are entitled to operate seamlessly within the publicly funded system. CHAA facilities are legally recognized as independent and distinct from Alberta Health Services (AHS)-managed facilities, AHS affiliate facilities, and private, for-profit facilities. However, CHAA's facilities are nonetheless considered to be on an equal footing with provincially owned facilities and services.

In practical terms, the master and cooperation/services agreements mean:

- CHAA is recognized as a valuable collaborator with AHS in the design, planning and delivery of health services.
- CHAA's NFP members are considered integral to the safe and effective delivery of provincial health services, and are accountable to AHS for provincial quality and safety standards.

- CHAA input is welcomed in health system priority-setting and service planning.
- Some CHAA member facilities and buildings are owned by AHS and leased back to NFP operators.

Additional provisions of the master and cooperation/services agreements include the requirement that joint planning must be responsive to the needs of the local community, the values and ethical principles of the NFP provider, and to AH/AHS as a whole.

The master and cooperation/services agreements go a long way to enshrining the long-standing role and contributions of the faith-based NFP sector in continuing to meet the health and housing needs of Alberta seniors.

Our
1994 agreement
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a collaborator in health
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