The Division of Community Engagement is committed to building community and academic capacity and partnerships in support of health equity, social justice and social accountability in the educational, service and research programs in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. Our Division champions a culture shift within our Faculty to better achieve these goals. We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of Treaty 6 on which our offices are situated, a welcoming place for peoples from around the world. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries such as: Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux.

Goals of the Division of Community Engagement

1. To advocate for and increase the use of social accountability principles by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry to address the needs of populations experiencing health inequities
2. To increase the focus on health equity, social justice and social accountability in the educational, service and research programs in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
3. To partner and collaborate with global, Indigenous, inner city and rural communities with honour and respect; to learn from each other and to work with communities to better address their needs and
4. To develop a place/space to foster creativity, ingenuity and engagement

Principles:

Social Accountability: The Division adheres to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) definition of the Social Accountability of Medical Schools as “the obligation to direct their education, research and service activities towards addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region and the nation that they have a mandate to serve. The priority health concerns are to be identified jointly by governments, health care organizations, health professionals and the public.” Our commitment to social accountability reaches from local communities to those beyond our borders.

Honour and Respect: Members of the Division will respectfully listen to and learn from one another, other members of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the University as well as from all of our community partners. There is a commitment to open dialogue and collaborative relationships.

Inclusiveness: Members of the Division will support an environment that respects and values differences, enabling everyone to meet their potential.

Collaboration: In the work of the Division, we seek to build collaborative relationships based on the principles of honour, respect and inclusiveness. Power-sharing with communities and partners will guide our work.

Equity: The Division fosters programs, services and research that will improve health equity within the province of Alberta and beyond.
Key Strategies:

1. Develop and steward mutually respectful partnerships with populations and
   communities and engage with them in mutually beneficial programs and activities
2. Develop and steward mutually respectful partnerships with universities, institutes,
   medical schools and other organizations with similar goals
3. Promote community-engaged scholarship—education, research, service
4. Develop and support decentralized medical education programs in partnership and
   collaboration with communities
5. Provide spaces, places and opportunities for discussion and education in social
   justice and health equity and encourage putting theory into practice

What is the work of the Division?

- **Steward relationships** on behalf of learners, faculty, and each other
- **Advocate for communities experiencing health inequities**
  - for increased representation in the Faculty’s student body, faculty and
    administrative staff
  - for equitable access to quality health services for communities locally,
    provincially, nationally and globally
  - and for culturally-safe care
- Advocate, initiate and conduct **community-engaged research** as a means to
  equitable health outcomes across all communities
- **Facilitate** authentic **learning experiences** with communities experiencing health
  inequities, for learners from all departments in the Faculty and at all levels: pre-
  clinical, clinical and post-graduate.
- **Represent the University and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry** to local,
  provincial, national and global communities within the broadly interpreted themes
  of social accountability and community engagement. This role does not replace
  that of others in the Faculty but it does provide a dedicated point of contact and a
  sensitive and informed “touch” for those for whom contact with the University or
  the Faculty might be challenging.
- **Build a practice community** around social accountability and health equity for
  research, teaching, and health care.