



ICES PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is ICES?

ICES is a not-for-profit research institute made up of a community of research, data and clinical experts. We work with Ontario's health-related data and aim to inform health system policy and planning to improve the health of all Ontarians. (ICES is pronounced by reading the letters of the name, I-C-E-S or eye-see-ee-ess).

What does ICES do?

ICES leads cutting-edge studies that evaluate health care delivery and outcomes. Since 1992, the Ontario government has entrusted ICES with securing and analyzing health information from Ontario residents. Our researchers access a vast and secure array of Ontario's health-related data, including population-based health surveys, anonymous patient records, and clinical and administrative databases. ICES is recognized as a leader in maintaining the privacy and security of health information. Our mission is research excellence resulting in trusted evidence that makes policy better, health care stronger, and people healthier.

To learn more about ICES, check out our website, www.ices.on.ca or watch this [video](#).

What is the ICES Public Advisory Council?

The ICES Public Advisory Council (PAC) is made up of members of the public from across Ontario. The council was formed in 2018 and represents the public's voice and guides ICES on what matters most to Ontarians for health data research. Their thoughts, perspectives, and values inform ICES research activities and influence how ICES researchers use data to improve Ontario's health care.

As part of the Public Advisory Council, you will:

- Discuss issues related to data and health data research
- Share your feedback on selected ICES activities and studies
- Provide your perspective on new data opportunities and partnerships
- Guide what research questions matter most to the public
- Shape ICES public-facing content and public engagement activities.

What are the specific duties of a Public Advisory Council member?

As a Public Advisory Council member, you will work with your other council members to advise ICES on issues related to health data research. The time commitment is 16 hours/year for three (3) years. You will need to attend:

- 1 virtual orientation session and training (2 hours)
- 2 in-person* council sessions per year (5 hours each, expenses covered)
- 2 virtual council sessions per year (2 hours each)



There is also the opportunity to volunteer for some additional virtual workgroups and surveys (time commitment varies).

*In-person meetings are dependent on the current COVID-19 pandemic and will be converted to 2-hour virtual meetings until further notice.

As a PAC member, you will:

- Attend orientation and training sessions, and all meetings
- Review a reasonable amount of background materials before meetings
- Learn from ICES experts about health data research and how health data is used, linked, stored, and accessed
- Participate in interactive feedback sessions around issues brought to the PAC or brought up by the PAC
- Bring ideas and comments to the PAC about ways to engage the public in health data research
- Connect with your community to continue the discussion with your friends, family and colleagues

No expertise in research, health care or data analytics is required. Each PAC member will bring their own unique experience as a resident of Ontario who interacts with the healthcare system.

How long has the ICES Public Advisory Council been in existence?

The ICES PAC was formed in 2018, and held its first meeting in March 2019. The inaugural PAC had 20 members who committed to joining for 2 years.

How many people are being recruited?

ICES is recruiting 10 new members of the PAC. To welcome new voices and perspectives while maintaining continuity in the PAC, we have a staggering membership approach to welcome new members every 18 months. You will be part of a group of 10 new members starting their 3-year term and joining 11 existing members of the council whose term ends in 18 months.

Is there compensation for being a Council member?

Yes, expenses are covered for in-person meetings when they can occur depending on public health restrictions (travel, accommodations, and meals). There is an annual honorarium provided to PAC members for their time at meetings in the form of gift cards.

Is training provided?

Yes, there will be training to ensure PAC members have the necessary background material to address the topics they will be discussing. Before the first meeting there will be an orientation session to familiarize PAC members with ICES and its activities. Training will continue to be provided on a topic specific basis as needed for each PAC meeting.

Is there a Terms of Reference?

Yes, there is a Terms of Reference, which includes the PAC's purpose, the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, the term of involvement and other important information to ensure that everyone is aware of what they are committing to. This document will be shared with all new members ahead of their orientation.



When will the first meeting be held?

We are currently in the process of recruiting members until the end of July 2022. We intend to provide orientation and have the first in-person meeting in Fall 2022.

Where can I find out more about ICES?

Click on the links below to access additional resources:

- [About ICES](#)
- [About privacy at ICES \(FAQ's\)](#)
- [About ICES research](#)
- [Download ICES handouts](#)
- [Watch the ICES' *More Than Numbers* video series](#)