

Culture corner

February commemorates Black History Month to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people in Canada. It is not enough to just observe Black History Month. We must make an effort to recognize, empower and elevate the perspectives and experiences of all individuals in the Black community. The [B.C. Black History Awareness Society website](#) contains a breadth of resources and learnings about the history of Black people in Canada (continue your learning [here](#) with these eight podcasts to deepen your knowledge of Black history!). VCH is committed to ensuring our workplaces are free of anti-black racism. Staff and medical staff are encouraged to continue their learning about the history of Black people in Canada and attend an [event](#) this February to honour the legacy of these individuals.

VCH Quality structure and governance work

An overview of the work to date on the new VCH Quality structure and governance was provided. Led by Allison Muniak, Executive Director, Quality and Patient Safety, IPAC and Risk Management, the team has created a regional quality governance model that emphasizes strong leadership and partnerships between varying levels to establish effective quality, safety and patient experience standards across VCH. The model focuses on regional consistency with local application to link the VCH quality structures that span from individual teams all the way to the broader organization. Groups within the model will focus on the following key activities:

- Identify quality and safety concerns
- Provide oversight on key quality priorities
- Review, monitor and analyze quality data
- Assess and prioritize opportunities
- Escalate opportunities within the structure
- Share, scale and spread learnings

HAMAC subcommittees

HAMAC discussed the draft terms of reference for the HAMAC Quality subcommittee and the HAMAC HRR subcommittee that are being reestablished after a period of dormancy. Members discussed the purpose and membership of each to ensure the subcommittees can meet their mandates. HAMAC passed a motion to support the draft terms of reference in principle allowing work to continue in getting these subcommittees up and running. The HAMAC Quality subcommittee will intersect with the new VCH Quality structure. HAMAC is committed to an ongoing partnership with VCH Quality and working together to break down silos.

Establishing a Coastal MAC

In follow up to the conversation at the January HAMAC meeting, Coastal leadership presented the current and proposed future state of a unified Coastal Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) structure. Since the last meeting, Coastal leaders engaged rural sites for their feedback on the change to ensure rural voices are preserved and elevated within the new structure. There was unanimous support from HAMAC members and Local Medical Directors who attended the discussion. HAMAC passed a motion to recommend the amalgamation to the Board of Directors for approval.

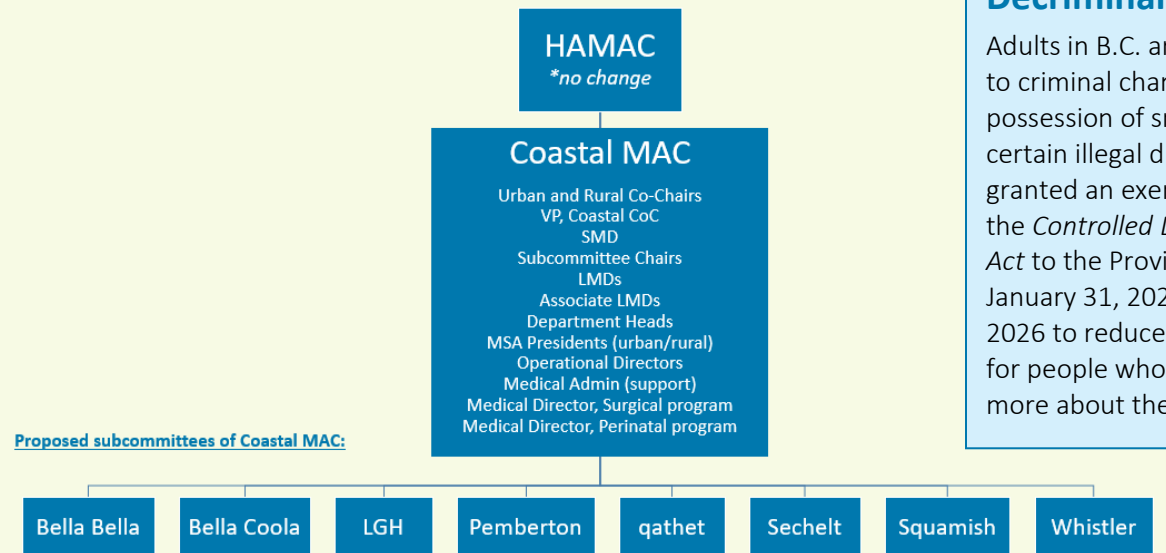


Figure 1. The proposed future state of the Coastal MAC.

Decriminalization in B.C.

Adults in B.C. are no longer subject to criminal charges for the personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs. Health Canada granted an exemption from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to the Province of B.C. from January 31, 2023 until January 31, 2026 to reduce barriers and stigma for people who use drugs. Read more about the exemption [here](#).