

3. Developing partnerships with our healthcare system that are sparking meaningful change brings it all together.

At IMAGINE, we hear many stories about **how important families and close friends are** to a patient's well-being. Research backs this up. When families are involved, things improve for the patient in many ways, from better coordination of care, to fewer falls and medication errors.

We are proud to have been an endorsing organization for the Better Together campaign. Now more than a year old, Better Together recognizes that **families are more than visitors**: They are partners in care.

Patient-centred care will never be a reality if family and friends need to leave when patients want them to stay. It's therefore great news that the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, which is spearheading this project Canada-wide, is reporting a surge in **hospitals embracing family presence policies**. We are also aware of a number of family presence initiatives underway with Alberta Health Services.

Better Together suggests that citizens get involved in encouraging hospitals to develop these policies. And IMAGINE's role is to ensure that patients and families have the support they need to do just that.

We therefore led a partnership that worked together on materials specifically for patients and families. The materials, which were very well received, were designed primarily by IMAGINE volunteers. They offer clear, step-by-step tips for **being a partner in care**, and for **having conversations with healthcare partners**.

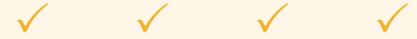
We encourage all Albertans to speak to your local hospital and long-term care facility about instituting family presence policies. When friends and family members are partners in care, the outcomes are better for patient and provider alike.

On the next page, find out more about our collaborations over the past two years.

We developed partnerships for meaningful change.



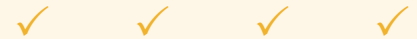
With Alberta Health Services and the Strategic Clinical Networks, we are leading the development of a **Healthcare 101 curriculum** that will help Albertans engage in the healthcare system more effectively to shape the future of healthcare in our province.



In collaboration with the University of Calgary School of Public Policy, three of our steering committee members co-authored a paper titled, **Are Patient-Centred Care and Integration Achievable Goals?**, and presented it at a panel discussion during the Unleashing Healthcare Innovation Forum.



The **Primary Care Alliance Board** and IMAGINE have explored opportunities to work together on initiatives that will improve the healthcare system for both family practitioners and patients.



We were an endorsing organization for the Better Together initiative, encouraging a healthcare culture that recognizes families as partners in care, not simply as visitors. **Better Together celebrated its first anniversary in November 2016.**



IMAGINE is a collaborator on the Fort McMurray Mommy Baby Study, a University of Alberta research initiative aimed at helping Fort McMurray moms who were pregnant at the time of the 2016 wild fires or who have become pregnant since.



We have appreciated our collaboration with IMAGINE's funders. Their partnership and the many types of assistance they have offered us are of critical importance in all we accomplish.



- The **O'Brien Institute for Public Health** not only provides funding, but in-kind support and assistance with research.
- The **Health Quality Council of Alberta** provides funding and in-kind support, and is our ongoing partner on a number of initiatives.
- **Alberta Innovates Health Solutions** is a funder, and has requested our involvement in several of its key initiatives.
- **Ward of the 21st Century** has provided funding for research assistants.

We thank them all.



Citizen participation



Health results that matter



Research and experience



Health system partnerships