



ALBERTA
HEALTH

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Varsity*

JUL 20 2022

AR 196889

Her Worship Cathy Heron
President
Alberta Municipalities
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Edmonton AB T6E 6E6
mayorheron@stalbert.ca

Dear Mayor Heron:

I know you have reached out in the past to the Government of Alberta, through the Honourable Josephine Pon, Minister of Seniors and Housing about the elder care model and long-term care. As Minister of Health, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with the following information and updates on continuing care homes (including long-term care and designated supportive living) and home care.

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring our health system has the resources to deliver the continuing care services and supports Albertans need in their communities, wherever they live. We are committed to doing everything we can to strengthen our continuing care system and remove financial barriers, so that all Alberta seniors and persons with disabilities have access to the care and services they need.

A key part of the government's plan is focused on strengthening Alberta's health system, which includes community and continuing care. Alberta's 2022 budget includes providing almost \$3.7 billion in operating funds across the continuing care system for professional health care and support services provided in community care, continuing care homes and home care settings. This funding boost will contribute to Albertans' health and well-being, independence and quality of life, whether they receive care and services through home and community care or in continuing care homes. The government is also investing in capital funding to modernize and increase continuing care capacity across the province. This includes \$204.1 million over three years to upgrade existing continuing care homes and increase spaces in communities that are most in need. Additionally, over 1,000 new continuing care home spaces will be opened in 2022/2023, including a significant number for persons living with dementia.

In addition to these financial investments, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Alberta has commenced the development of a new legislative framework for the continuing care system in Alberta with a focus on client-centred care. The new legislative framework is the first step to initiating an overall system transformation for continuing care. This new legislative framework is being enacted through Bill 11, the Continuing Care Act (the Act), which received Royal Assent by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on May 31, 2022.

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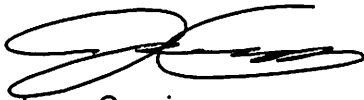
The Act will remove barriers to implementing other strategic initiatives in the system. This will ensure that continuing care, including home and community care, supportive living accommodations, palliative and end-of-life care, and facility-based care in continuing care homes, can meet the growing needs of Alberta's population. Aspects of the Act were informed by recommendations made in the final report on Alberta facility-based continuing care review recommendations published in May 2021, and the final report on advancing palliative and end-of-life care in Alberta: palliative and end-of-life care engagement from November 2021. The government will be continuing to review recommended actions arising from these reports in the coming months, as standards and regulations for the Act are being developed.

To ensure quality care for residents and home care clients, Alberta Health already sets minimum standards for publicly funded health care services and accommodation services delivered in continuing care settings in accordance with Alberta's continuing care health service standards. Service providers are monitored for compliance to these standards on a regular basis. Accommodation standard inspection results are available on the Alberta Health public reporting website.

I assure you that Alberta Health will continue to work to implement initiatives and policies to ensure Albertans have access to the continuing care services and supports they need.

Thank you again for your advocacy for Alberta seniors.

Sincerely,



Jason Copping
Minister of Health

cc: The Honourable Josephine Pon, ECA, Minister of Seniors and Housing