

BC CARE UPDATE – April 2009

Dear members,

Further to previous notices, here is an update on what we are doing to further the Action Plan goals we have developed with you over the past year. This report focuses on:

- health & safety guidelines
- BC election
- 2009 BC Care Providers annual conference

As always, if you have any questions or comments about these issues or need the Association's assistance with anything, do not hesitate to contact us at info@bccare.ca.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Last week, our Association released new health and safety guidelines to protect seniors and staff at BC residential care facilities. A news release was distributed last week and there has been a significant amount of public attention since. We are raising the profile of senior's care as an issue in BC.

In the one week since the guidelines were released, more than 70% of our members have signed on and are using the workload management tool to help them assess new admissions. More are expected to come on-line in the coming weeks.

We are committed to ongoing consultation with our members so we will be working with our participating members in the months ahead to assess the impact of these measures and help facilities implement this east-to-use tool. We will also be posting information regularly on our web-site. In addition to posting the guidelines and manual on the home page, we have placed a number of items in the Members Only section, including:

- draft legal letter to use for health authorities that may be giving you a hard time about refusing admissions to protect health and safety
- list of frequently asked questions – with answers
- press articles
- correspondence with the Association and provincial authorities – including Ombudsman, Health Authorities and Minister
- Letters to Ombudsman and Auditor General

We will be forwarding more materials in the coming week – including some tools you can use to coincide with the current election. Thank you again for your ongoing interest and support. We have already made an impact.

BC Election May 12

The 2009 BC election campaign is under way. In advance of the May 12 vote, we invited the leaders of the three main political parties to submit a message to our members regarding the state of residential care and identify measures they would introduce to improve the quality of senior's care if they are elected.

We will be distributing those messages to you directly in the coming days and featuring them in the upcoming Election Edition of our Care Quarterly newsletter. We will also be forwarding updates on the election platforms and campaign announcements as they are received – as we did with the NDP platform earlier this week. For voting information, contact 1.800.661.8683.

2009 Annual Conference – BC Ombudsman to Address Delegates

Our annual convention is one of the highlights of the year for the Association. This year it is taking place May 31 to June 2 at Vancouver's Westin Bayshore. We are very excited about this year's event, which we are again co-hosting with the Health Care Leaders Association of BC.

The BC Home and Community Care Conference: Partnerships for Excellence will be an opportunity to hear a wide range of perspectives, garner new knowledge and reacquaint yourself with colleagues in our care community. Some of the special guests attending this year are:

- Ombudsman Kim Carter on the role of the BC Ombudsman in seniors care
- Partnerships BC CEO Larry Blain and CMHC Business Development Manager John Lynch on public/private partnerships and financing
- Health Employers Association of BC Interim President and CEO Lee Doney on labour relations and collective bargaining

We are expecting a great turn out this year and look forward to seeing you there. Stay tuned to www.bccare.ca for updated on the convention agenda.

Warm regards,

David Hurford,
Director of Public Relations and Member Services
BC Care Providers
604.736.4233 (x228)