

## **BC CARE UPDATE – May 2009**

Dear members,

Further to previous notices, here is a progress report on some of the issues the Association has been working on over the past couple weeks. This update focuses on:

- annual BC Care Providers Conference
- Intergenerational Toolkit
- meeting with federal Conservative MPs

I also want to thank all the members that have been submitting their bi-weekly placement reports in association with the health and safety guidelines we introduced last month. They are very useful for us.

### **Annual BC Care Providers Conference**

One of the highlights of the year is our Annual General Meeting and Conference. In addition to being a valuable networking opportunity for you, the conference is an opportunity to discuss current issues and celebrate our progress.

Registration this year starts on Sunday (May 31) and the conference concludes Tuesday afternoon (June 2). We are co-hosting the event again this year with the Health Care Leaders of BC and have prepared a comprehensive two-day agenda – including a special presentation by the BC Ombudsman and annual award presentations.

It is not too late to register at [www.bccare.ca](http://www.bccare.ca).

### **Intergenerational Toolkit**

This week, in association with our partners in the BC Ministries of Education, Healthy Living and Sport, our Association completed a special guide to help develop intergenerational programs for BC schools, care facilities and community groups.

The toolkit contains practical information that will help coordinate programs that connect children and seniors. It provides a wide-range of information including how to prepare a project plan, establish community partnerships, access funding and measure success. Our shared goal is to promote learning, understanding and mutual respect between generations.

We have opted for a sustainable online posting of this toolkit, rather than printing, in an effort to reduce unnecessary consumption of our valuable paper resources. You can access the document on-line and download it at [www.bccare.ca](http://www.bccare.ca)

We are notifying schools and educators across the province in the coming week about the toolkit and encourage them to consider a local program. We will plan a more public release in June.

We welcome your feedback and hope to offer ongoing updates to the toolkit in support of intergenerational learning. If you have any questions or are having trouble accessing the document on the site, please do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

**Meeting with BC federal Conservative MPs**

Three of the most important services our Association provides for you are government relations, policy development and the development of special projects. Earlier this week, all three were in play as our CEO Ed Helfrich and President Christine Nidd met with the elected federal Conservative MPs from BC.

Our Association was very well received by the MPs and we agreed to strengthen our relationship in the coming months. All were very interested in hearing more about senior's health issues in their respective constituencies. More specifically we talked about:

- how the challenges of an aging society will require additional health care investments from, all levels of government
- opportunity to use training funds allocated in 2009 federal budget to train and hire much-needed health care workers in residential care sector through an extension of the very successful **BC Cares** program
- our support for federal New Horizons program and other community health promotion partnerships
- ongoing relationship with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

We will be following up to the Caucus in the coming weeks once our **BC Cares** training proposal is complete and submitted. If you would like a copy of the briefing note we submitted the MPs let me know and we will send it to you.

Warm regards,

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