

Improved Efficiency and Quality: Filling Empty Residential Care and Assisted Living Beds

WHEREAS a recent report from the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) estimates that each day in Canada there are 7,550 acute care hospital beds filled with elderly people who should be in a residential long-term care home or rehabilitation;

WHEREAS this CMA estimates this fact represents a cost of \$2.4 billion/year (2.4 million hospital days/year × \$1,000/night/acute care bed);

WHEREAS it has been estimated that a frail, elderly person can suffer a 5% functional decline for every days they spend in a hospital;

WHEREAS it is estimated in British Columbia that 10-15% of all acute care beds are occupied by long-stay patients;

WHEREAS there are empty residential care and assisted living beds at licensed facilities in communities across BC and a healthy supply of accredited home care workers looking for increased hours;

WHEREAS in addition to being a better quality care option, provincial health and Ministry officials have acknowledged that it is more cost effective to provide complex care in community setting;

WHEREAS the provincial government has adopted a patient-focused approach to health policy and administration;

IT IS HEREBY recommended:

- the BC Care Providers Association invite the provincial government to establish a task force to fill empty residential care and assisted living beds in BC communities with seniors waiting for care in hospitals
- that this task force should meet on a quarterly basis to conduct an inventory of empty care beds and available home care services in the community and match them to seniors waiting in acute care
- BCCPA work with Ministry toward establishing maximum wait times for seniors waiting in hospitals for community care
- BCCPA encourage the provincial government to ensure the Residents Bill of Rights is being enforced for seniors waiting in acute care hospital beds
- BCCPA ask the provincial government to disclose the total amount of fees hospitals collect from seniors waiting longer than 30 days in acute care