



January 9, 2012

Hon Dr Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government
PO Box 9067 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and seniors care providers across the province please accept our since best wishes for a Happy New Year in 2012.

In light of your long-standing interest in health care and your new responsibilities as Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government, I am writing on behalf of our members to express some concerns about the potential economic impact of the new medical leave guidelines your Ministry introduced last month related to mental stress leave. (Bill 14 - Workers Compensation Amendment Act 2011).

While we agree protecting the well-being of workers at all times must be a top priority for all, it is our fear that without mitigation the potential costs associated with the new measures that are being proposed may have a significant negative impact on the ability of care providers to maintain funding levels and quality of care standards.

While we are in the process of talking to our members about the proposals and assessing the financial impact, we would like to arrange a meeting with you and your officials to gather more information about the new policy you are considering and how you envision it being implemented.

We greatly appreciate your accessibility in the past to discuss health care issues and we sincerely hope you will be able to meet with us again in Victoria or Vancouver. It is our understanding that you are inviting feedback from various sectors on this new proposal and we look forward to participating in that process over the coming weeks and months on behalf of the seniors care providers we serve.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Our office will be in touch with your staff to arrange follow-up.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Helfrich".

Ed Helfrich
Chief Executive Officer

cc Michael de Jong; Minister of Health