

BC Care Providers Association – 2009 List of Accomplishments

The BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) has been serving private and non-profit care providers for over 30 years. In addition to employing more than 7,000 people, BCCPA members care for over 10,000 seniors each day in residential care and an additional 4,000 each year through home support.

BCCPA provides a variety of services to members including government relations, policy development, ongoing consultation, advocacy, media services, outreach to health authorities and labour relations.

Here is a summary of BCCPA successes in 2009:

- secured commitment from BC Health Minister to allocate over \$50 million in new revenue to increase staffing at residential care facilities over next two years
- prepared comprehensive report on negative impact of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on seniors' care sector that garnered significant media attention and numerous references in BC Legislature
- secured mitigation measures to offset some impact of HST on seniors' care – including hydro rebate, 57% credit for non-profit facilities and commitment to consider additional mitigation for private providers
- secured regular meetings with Ministers of Health, Healthy Living and Finance to present issues and solutions to challenges facing care providers
- secured commitments of over \$400,000 from government agencies to develop alternative models of HR/LR services and extend successful BC Cares employment and training partnership to recruit care aides and LPNs
- successfully secured decision from BC Cabinet to allow voluntary membership for care providers in Health Employers Association of BC
- developed workload measurement tool to help care providers resist pressure from health authorities to accept complex care cases in the absence of appropriate funding levels
- introduced comprehensive set of health and safety guidelines that were recognized as a leading practice by Canadian Healthcare Association
- actively advocated on seniors' issues in over 150 articles, radio reports and TV stories on behalf of care providers
- increased pressure on Health Authorities to disclose all daily funding rates at BC residential care facilities and fill empty residential care beds with seniors waiting in acute care hospital wards
- organized six regional workshops and over 50 site visits with members to updated BCCPA Action plan and prepare recommendations to BC Health Minister to improve efficiency and sustainability of seniors' care system
- worked co-operatively with BC Ombudsperson's office on her systematic review of seniors care and prepared comprehensive response to her initial report on behalf of care providers

- increased Association membership and hosted successful annual conference in Vancouver that attracted over 250 delegates, presenters and exhibitors
- developed comprehensive manual for BC communities to promote local projects that connect seniors and youth - in partnership with education leaders across BC and Health Ministry
- advised BC government on development of BC's first care aide registry, implementation of Bill 17, Residents Bill of Rights and review of Patient Quality Review Act
- supported communication between health authorities and care providers during H1N1 pandemic
- increased awareness of seniors' care issues with federal MPs and Cabinet Ministers
- prepared federal and provincial pre-budget submissions to encourage Ministers of Finance to consider the funding priorities of care providers - with success
- actively advocated on seniors issues during provincial election through media outreach, policy development, candidate outreach and Leader's survey
- initiated quarterly meetings with Health Authority officials and maintained ongoing collaboration with BC Seniors Living Association, Denominational Health Association, Alzheimer's Society and Health Care Leaders of BC