



## about us

### HISTORY

Founded under the Societies Act in 1981, the Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization representing owners and operators of continuing care (long term care and designated assisted living) facilities throughout the province of Alberta. Our members operate under Alberta's *Nursing Homes Act* and *Hospitals Act*.

Formerly known as the Alberta Long Term Care Association, effective July 1, 2007 Alberta Continuing Care Association became the official new name reflecting directly on the care our members provide.

Our Association provides a credible voice for the continuing care industry in Alberta and promotes high standards and quality performance by its members. The top priorities for the Association are to enhance the quality of life for the residents in our members care, and to advocate and champion for the best continuing care system in Canada.

The Association's voting membership includes organizations providing daily care to over 10,000 residents of long-term care facilities and 1,500 residents of supportive living facilities that operate under contract with Alberta Health Services (designated assisted living).

Our members include owners and operators in the private, voluntary and public sectors. Our members employ over 16,000 Albertans who deliver over 17 million hours of hands-on care to seniors and younger disabled clients.

To be successful in the industry, the providers of continu-

ing care services need to be aware of market trends and customer needs and choices. The Association has a role in helping its members respond to these forces while developing a higher profile for this service industry in the province.

### OUR VISION

To advocate and champion the best continuing care system in Canada.

### OUR MISSION

Enhancing quality of life for individuals receiving continuing care by assisting members in networking, advocacy, education and pursuit of best practices.

### OUR VALUES

ACCA members ascribe to and engage the following organizational values that form the foundation of our vision and mission:

- Support members in the pursuit of quality of care and service for residents
- Promote professionalism, sensitivity and empathy in all interactions
- Integrity in relationships and accountability in the use of public funds

ACCA's number one priority is to increase the quality of care for the residents in our members' care. The Association is a credible voice for the industry and acts as an advocate for high standards and quality performance by its members.



## who we are

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ACCA Board of Directors consists of eight (8) members, including the immediate Past President and seven (7) elected Directors of the Association. The elected Directors consist of the President, the Past President, three (3) Vice-Presidents representing each of public, private and voluntary operators, and three (3) Directors.

### ROLE OF THE BOARD

- Advocate for continuing care issues
- Develop ACCA positions based on well researched data and timely consideration of issues
- Establish an ACCA philosophy of funding and accountability
- Be proactive and assertive
- Advocate for adequate funding in the system based on performance and cost in order to provide quality of care
- Ensure that ACCA is effective and efficient in carrying out the Business Plan

## vision 2020

The ACCA supports government's Vision 2020 Health Plan and the Continuing Care Strategy. These documents acknowledge many of the issues raised by the Association over the past several years and commit to addressing them. The ACCA has welcomed the opportunity to provide input to government ministries and to participate on a number of committees and working groups charged with implementing these new directions.

The operators of Alberta's LTC and DAL facilities play an important role in reducing costs of our health care system by providing more appropriate and cost effective alternatives to keeping medically stable people in acute care settings beyond the time required to effectively and efficiently assess and/or treat their medical condition(s). The ACCA supports the concept of "Aging in the Right

### COMMITTEES, ADVISORY GROUPS, TASK FORCES

ACCA relies heavily on the involvement of individual members to meet its objectives and goals. Members actively participate on collaborative committees, task forces and advisory groups on specific issues impacting long term care.

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### PRESIDENT

Dr. Hasmukh Patel, AgeCare

#### PAST PRESIDENT

Greer Black, Bethany Care Society

#### VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC

Dale Forbes, Carewest

#### VICE PRESIDENT VOLUNTARY

Stan Fisher, St. Michael's Long Term Care

#### VICE PRESIDENT PRIVATE

John Kurvink, Chantelle Management Ltd

#### DIRECTOR

Iris Neumann, CapitalCare

#### DIRECTOR

Wayne McKendrick, Extendicare (Canada) Inc.

#### DIRECTOR

Carla Gregor, Good Samaritan Society

Place" as outlined in the Continuing Care Strategy. Many of our member organizations were pioneers and have firsthand experience with the aging-in-place model.

Over the last several years the continuing care system has lacked a method for measuring the relative acuity of LTC residents. Not surprisingly, as seniors are living longer, our members have noted that today's residents generally are frailer and have more complex health needs than in past years.

How all these factors come together in the proposed DAL model is not clear, but what is clear is that a system which places LTC level residents in a DAL setting does not work and will place the resident, the operator and AHS at a significant risk.



## 2010 key strategic directions

- A. Secure adequate, sustainable resources for quality care
- B. Enhance relationships with government, Alberta Health Services and key stakeholders
- C. Promote effective responses to human resources and labour relation issues in continuing care
- D. Ensure continuing care settings are able to respond effectively to an influenza pandemic
- E. Improve standards and measurement processes in continuing care

### Goals

#### *A. Secure adequate, sustainable resources for quality care*

Secure adequate, predictable funding and flexible accountability frameworks that allow long-term care and designated assisted living operators to provide quality care and housing services to residents.

#### *B. Enhance relationships with government, Alberta Health Services and key stakeholders*

Build upon relationships with Alberta Health Services and government to ensure Association participation in policy development and direction setting. Emphasis will be placed on advocating appropriate mix of long term care and designated assisted living spaces to best meet community and client needs in accordance with government's Continuing Care Strategy.

#### *C. Promote effective responses to human resource and labour relations issues in continuing care*

- Through collaboration with government, educators and industry, promote the training, recruitment and retention of capable, qualified employees for the continuing care sector.
- Improve the stability and viability of Alberta's continuing care employment environment by working with government, unions and employers to update legislation and contracts in response to the changing continuing care system.

#### *D. Ensure continuing care settings are able to respond effectively to an influenza pandemic*

Long term care and designated assisted living providers

have adequate protective equipment, funding and training to respond to an influenza pandemic.

#### *E. Improve standards and measurement processes in continuing care*

- Ensure the Association is effectively consulted during the development or revision of legislation, standards, and inspection or reporting processes.
- Promote the shift toward outcome based measures and reporting processes that give operators the flexibility to adopt innovative ways of providing quality services, focus scarce resources on the provision of care, and maximize staff time with residents and families.

### partnership development

ACCA will:

- Collaborate with other health care services and organizations to advocate for a seamless continuum of care for Albertans
- Continue to remain a key stakeholder on the Continuing Care Workforce Planning Committee with Alberta Health & Wellness, Alberta Seniors & Community Supports, and Alberta Advanced Education & Technology
- Maintain links to Alberta Health & Wellness, Alberta Seniors & Community Supports and Alberta Health Services

### voice at the table

ACCA will be a voice for and represent the continuing care sector by sitting on government committees and meeting with respective ministers and officials:

- Long Term Care Collaborative Committee
- Canadian Alliance for Long Term Care
- Government policy committees
- Health Facilities Review Committee
- Protection for Persons in Care
- Accommodation Standards and Licensing Unit
- Alberta Health and Wellness
- Alberta Seniors and Community Supports
- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs
- Alberta Health and Wellness Compliance Unit
- Alberta Employment and Immigration



## continuing care in alberta

*In 2006, there were approximately 14,500 people living in long term care facilities within the continuing care system. The need for continuing care services will grow dramatically as Alberta's population ages. Currently, 51% of the long term care residents are over the age of 85 and 31% are over the age of 90.*

### CONTINUING CARE SYSTEM IN ALBERTA

Continuing care is a system of service delivery, which provides individuals who have health conditions or disabilities with access to services they need to experience independence and quality living. These services include professional services, personal care services and a range of other services. They may be provided for a short term or a long term. Usually these services are provided in long term care centres or in the home. There is an increasing trend toward providing services in a variety of settings.

Continuing care services are provided in three streams. Each stream of care can provide clients with a broad range of health and personal care, accommodation and hospitality services.

#### Home Living

Home living is for people who live in their own home, apartment, condominium or other independent living option. They are responsible for arranging any home care and support services that they require. Home care can provide in-home professional support services like

nursing and rehabilitation, and personal support services like homemaking, bathing and/or grooming assistance.

#### Supportive Living

Supportive living combines accommodation services with other supports and care. It meets the needs of a wide range of people, but not those with complex needs that require the services of a registered nurse on-site, 24 hours a day. In addition to providing a place to live, accommodation services in supportive living facilities can include meals, housekeeping and social activities. Supportive living residents can also receive professional and personal support services through home care or by the operator under contract with Alberta Health Services.

#### Facility Living

Facility living includes long term care facilities like nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals. Care is provided for people with complex health needs who are unable to remain at home or in supportive living. Long term care settings provide accommodation, personal support and health care services. Facility-based living provides 24 hour care with a registered nurse on-site.

### contact



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