



United Nurses of Alberta

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July 29, 2016

Via Courier

Honourable Sarah Hoffman
Minister of Health
Government of Alberta
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
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Dear Minister Hoffman:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on July 14, 2016 and explain the United Nurses of Alberta's concerns with the Government of Alberta's review of Nursing Home and Home Care regulations and legislation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to set out our members' perception that the discussion and stakeholder communication on this important topic has been framed inappropriately for participants by ministry staff and the market research company engaged by the government to assist with the organization of the review's forums.

As we said in our meeting, the value of Registered Nurses to the health care system has been thoroughly researched and is well understood, and, indeed, is backed up by Alberta Health Services' own assumptions about the needs of the kinds of residents that should be admitted to long-term care.

During that meeting, we promised to provide you with background information on the research to which we made reference. Please find with this letter, a document prepared by UNA's Research Department summarizing the situation now faced by care providers in long-term and home care settings in Alberta, and summarizing with citations some of the vast number of research documents supporting the need for increased direct-care RN hours to achieve better care and resident outcomes.

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Our recommendations based on this evidence are:

1. Alberta continue to include minimum nursing and personal care hours in regulations:
 - The minimum threshold for total nursing and personal care staffing be 4.1 hours-per-resident-day
 - The minimum threshold for direct care by a Registered Nurse be 0.75 hours-per-resident-day
2. Continue to include the requirement for an RN on-site 24 hours a day.
3. Increase monitoring of RN, LPN and HCA staffing hours; ensure data collected distinguishes between RN and LPN hours.
4. Alberta Health Services make its contracts with for-profit and not-for-profit long-term-care providers available to the public
5. As per the Auditor General's October 2014 Report, increase public reporting on financial information, service quality and compliance in LTC facilities, including information on staffing hours, in order to ensure that funding for LTC is being spent optimally in all facilities, regardless of ownership status.

Thank you again for your attention to these important matters. Please do not hesitate to call if you require clarification or additional information.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Clark
Secretary Treasurer United Nurses of Alberta *Signing for*

Heather Smith
President
United Nurses of Alberta