



People from across Alberta spoke publicly to the **MLA Task Force on Continuing Care Services and Accommodation** about some of the most difficult, frustrating and painful experiences in their lives.

These stories proved that we have an obligation to fix the system.

“How does this government expect retired seniors, most of whom are living on fixed incomes, to keep up with the rising costs associated with living in Alberta?”

“Abuse of vulnerable Albertans is a serious problem...there were almost a hundred complaints from nursing homes and hospitals that facilities were failing to provide the necessities of life.”

Alberta Liberal MLA Bridget Pastoor, Alberta Hansard, June 5 and 6, 2007



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Fixing Continuing Care in Alberta

Five Steps to Improve Living Conditions for Seniors in Care

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Albertans know from hard-won experience that quality of care at long-term care facilities must improve. Each continuing care setting is home to its residents, and they deserve to be properly looked after.

The Alberta Liberal Caucus has outlined **five priority areas** where immediate and long-term action will help improve the health and happiness of citizens living in continuing care:

Improve quality of life

- Establish autonomous Resident & Family Councils in all homes.
- Ensure that stimulating activities and therapies are readily available.
- Legislate a Resident Bill of Rights.

Implement clear, enforceable standards

- Legislate clear, measurable, resident-focussed standards, province-wide.
- Create a Continuing Care Commissioner, accountable to the Legislature.
- Fund the creation and operation of an independent Advocacy Centre for Dependent Adults.

Improve staffing and training

- Legislate a *minimum* level of care per day for those in continuing care.
- Legislate clear, measurable minimum standards for staff-to-resident ratios.
- Implement competitive wages, permanent positions and increased staffing levels and appropriate staff mixes, and establish standards of training and regulate PCAs.
- Partner with colleges, universities and professional associations in an effort to recruit and train people for a career in continuing care.

Ensure transparency, accountability and consistency across the province

- Legislate province-wide standards to apply in both public and private settings.
- Legislate and communicate clear definitions to clarify what services and levels of care can be expected in each setting, including distinctions between care services and accommodation fees, extra fees, and access to programs.
- Ensure that all contracts between Regional Health Authorities and facilities are made public.

Funding

- Commit to immediate short term, accountable funding.
- Concentrate funding in front-line resident care.

“Nursing staff can only be accountable for the level of care they can give through available resources, and right now we don’t have the resources to give good care.”

— Rae Ing, personal care attendant, Red Deer



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