**Billions More Reasons to Care**

**BC Residential Long Term Care facilities: the bumpy operating field**

The British Columbia Seniors’ Advocate has been hard at work for the last 10 years and has released Important reports. The latest report was released on October 23, 2023. This is a follow up to an earlier report released in early 2019. The indictment of the most recent report is that very little has changed in long-term residential care since the report of four years ago despite specific, important recommendations.

Some key findings of the report titled: Billions More Reasons to Care, are outlined here.

Since 2017 / 2018:

* Direct care staffing costs have increased by 33%
* Indirect care staffing costs have increased by 33%
* Capital building [which includes mortgages] costs up by 18%
* Supplies and administration costs were up by 61%
* Profit [undefined] increased by 113%

Some significant differences were found again between the for-profit facilities [FP], and not for profit facilities [NP].

* NP spent 25% more dollars on direct care.
* NP delivered 93,000 hours more on direct care than funded for as opposed to FP’s delivering 500,000 hours less than funded for. \*[see note below]
* FP spent 66% more on capital building costs [ includes mortgages on privately owned buildings paid by tax dollars].
* FP earned 7X as much profit as NPs. Profit is not defined. [Profit here does NOT include management fees charged only by FPs and mortgage payments noted above].
* FPs overall pay staff significantly less than NPs and their staff are less qualified.

The four main recommendations put forward by the BC Seniors’ Advocate are:

1. Public money subsidizing long-term facilities **designated for Direct Care must be spent on Direct Care**, and not on other expenses. If not used for Direct Care, those funds must be returned.
2. There must be complete **transparency** in monitoring standards, and in reporting on performance using those standards. Reporting must also be standardized.
3. **Define profit**. Are management fees profit? Are mortgage payments for private facilities profit?
4. The **financial status and reports** of long-term care facilities that are publicly subsidized **must be made public**.

For much more rich information, read the report: Billions More Reasons to Care at the link. The executive summary, very informative and less than two pages long, is found on page 4.

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/2023/10/Billions-More-Reasons-to-Care-Sept-23.pdf>

Action Suggested

As a concerned British Columbian and a 2+SLGBTQI+ plus senior, you may wonder what you can do. There is a campaign by the British Columbia Health Coalition to send a postcard to the minister responsible for long-term care facilities: Adrian Dix. The BC Health Coalition will send you a postcard [stamped and addressed] on which you write your views and concerns, plus your story.

Find out more about it and how to get a postcard for that purpose, at the link:

https://www.bchealthcoalition.ca/send\_a\_postcard\_to\_minister\_dix

\*Assuming a standard of 7 ½ hours worked per day, and 223 days per year worked [equal 365 days -104 weekend days, -15 vacation days, -13 statutory holidays, -10 sick days] that adds up to 55.6 full-time work years added by the NPs and 299 full-time work years not delivered by FPs. Assigning a wage of $22 per hour, the value of unfunded work by NPs is $2,394,414 and the value of work that was not delivered by FPs is $12,876,435 of taxpayer funding as budgeted. 15 vacation days, 13 statutory holidays, 10 sick days are included as part of the value/cost. Not costed are employer expenses/employee benefits such as Workman’s Compensation, MSP, Health Benefits etc.