

## Backgrounder: Continuing Care Collaborative

To continue fostering existing expertise, BCCPA recommends health authorities and the Ministry of Health establish more formal mechanisms to work more collaboratively with non-government care providers in the future.

At BCCPA's 2015 Annual General Meeting, care providers voted unanimously to endorse the concept of a *Continuing Care Collaborative* to encourage all parties to create a new mechanism for dialogue. BCCPA recommends the Ministry establish of a Collaborative with health authorities, BCCPA and DHA based on Alberta's successful model. To address pressing issues in the sector, BCCPA is recommending the mandate focus on:

- implementing Ministry and BCCPA recommendations
- supporting the sustainability of the sector and improve seniors care across the province
- promoting a province-wide approach to ensure the sharing of advances and best practices in seniors care
- coordinating research and innovation opportunities including establishment of a provincial Centre of Excellence for Ageing

With less funding than their health authority counterparts, private and non-profit care providers deliver quality health services for seniors across the province. Through innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit, BCCPA members find creative ways to make BC the best place for seniors' care. As noted in the [February 2012 report from the BC Ombudsperson](#), beds in non-government care homes can cost up to about 15% less than beds in public homes.

As noted in BCCPA's [Seniors Care for a Change report](#), evidence shows that non-government operated care homes are operating efficiently and there could be cost savings in investing further in these service providers, particularly as demand for continuing care services increase.

There are many other examples where non-government operators are leading the way with respect to fostering innovation and dealing with challenges facing the system - including reducing Alternate Level of Care beds and hospitalization rates.

To make best use of limited resources, BCCPA recommends the provincial government continue efforts to prioritize funding for residential care and home support services to ensure BC seniors continue to have access to the best possible continuing care.