



April 16, 2020

Hon. John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
Victoria, B.C.

Re: Extending the reduced school tax rate to retirement homes and seniors' care properties

Dear Premier Horgan,

On behalf of the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) and EngAge BC, I would like to thank your government for the work that is underway to support British Columbians during an immensely challenging time for our province.

As you will know, [BC Care Providers Association](#) has represented non-government care providers for over 40 years. Along with our operating arm EngAge BC, we work with over 370 long-term care, home care, assisted living, independent living and commercial members across the province. Our members provide care for over 25,000 seniors annually and creates more than 18,000 direct and indirect jobs across the province.

Recently, the Province of B.C. announced they would be further reducing the school property tax rate for commercial properties to achieve an average 25% reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses, providing up to \$700 million in relief. This enhances the 50% reduction to the provincial school property tax rate that was originally announced for classes 4, 5, and 6 as part of B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan.

As long-term care, independent living and assisted living properties are classified as residential properties (Class 1), they are not expected to benefit from this reduction.

As a result of COVID-19, retirement homes and seniors' care operators face significant financial impacts. Our association is asking the Ministry to extend the reduced school tax rate to independent living, assisted living and long-term care properties.

We hope that you will consider this request and look forward to your response.



I would be pleased to meet with your staff to answer any questions on this matter.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fontaine".

Daniel Fontaine
CEO, BCCPA & EngAge BC

cc: Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance