

Policy Motions adopted in 2024:

- **Coordinated Seniors Housing & Care Strategy:**

Whereas British Columbia lacks a well-coordinated system of elder care and seniors housing services that allows seniors to age in the home of their choice with adequate support and also ensures a smooth transition to higher levels of care—such as assisted living and long-term care—when needed;

Whereas transitions into long-term care or assisted living are often rushed, disorganized and traumatic for seniors, due to a lack of appropriate support;

Whereas the lack of available home supports—and the cost of alternative care services creates a strong financial incentive for some seniors to move into higher levels of care earlier than they might otherwise need;

Whereas this has been borne out, such that 13% of newly admitted long-term care residents in British Columbia could potentially have been cared for at home or in the community, and 26% of emergency department visits are patients aged 65 years or older; and

Whereas a demand analysis—inclusive of independent living to assisted living, long-term care, and other forms of housing that provide varying levels of care and support—would identify opportunities for the affiliate care sector to partner with government to increase the supply of available seniors housing and care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members:

Calls upon the Government of British Columbia to review the continuum of elder care and seniors' housing in the province to ensure that the system is aligned and coordinated. This strategy would include consideration of policies to allow seniors to age in the home of their choice with adequate support and would ensure a smooth transition to appropriate higher levels of care such as assisted living and long-term care when needed. This coordinated strategy would be facilitated by demand analysis and financial levers that support an appropriate level of care.

- **Long-term Care Building Design & Capital Costs**

Whereas the B.C. Minister of Health has announced a long-term care (LTC) capital plan of \$3.2 billion over the next ten years to build 5,000 new care spaces;

Whereas the announced spaces fall short of the true demand, with the Conference Board of Canada projecting that over 30,000 new long-term care spaces will be required by 2035 in BC;

Whereas the average cost of the announced LTC projects in B.C. now exceeds \$1 million per bed, nearly double the national average, raising serious concerns about the cost effectiveness of these investments; and

Whereas many of the new LTC building designs incorporate features—such as ensuite showers in every room, and hospital-like IPAC requirements—that are impractical, costly, and provide limited enhancement to the quality of life for residents; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members:

Calls upon the Government of British Columbia to collaborate with long-term care operators and other sector stakeholders to review and assess recent capital investments and building design guidelines. The review should be based on the criteria of cost-effectiveness, practicality, and value-added to ensure that both new and redeveloped LTC homes meet the needs of those in care, while prioritizing quality of life, fiscal sustainability and efficient use of resources.

- Live-in Care

Whereas live-in care provides crucial support for seniors and individuals with chronic conditions who need around-the-clock care in the comfort of their own homes;

Whereas family-funded home health organizations were historically able to offer live-in care at an affordable flat daily rate as per the Employment Standards Act (ESA) overtime regulation for live-in home support workers;

Whereas in 2016, the BC Employment Standards Tribunal ruled that all family-funded live-in care workers must be paid hourly for hours worked (including overtime provisions after 8 hours) rather than via a flat daily rate;

Whereas, under this ruling, the cost of live-in care is now unaffordable for many seniors and their families, often exceeding \$500 per day or \$15,000 per month;

Whereas many families are now compelled to hire live-in home support workers via unregulated platforms like Craigslist, leading to concerns about quality of care and safety; and

Whereas live-in home support workers should be afforded appropriate employment protections, including minimum legislated standards for working conditions, hours of work, and overtime pay; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members:

Calls upon the Government of British Columbia to review and update the Employment Standards Act regulation for live-in home support workers with the aim of providing affordable access to family-funded live-in care services while ensuring employment protection for home health workers, including provisions for working conditions, hours of work and overtime pay.

- Age-friendly Housing Strategies

Whereas B.C.'s senior population is rapidly growing, creating a diverse range of housing needs, preferences, wants, and support requirements for older adults to age safely and comfortably in their communities;

Whereas an Age-Friendly Housing Strategy must address the full continuum of housing options, from independent living to assisted living, long-term care, and other forms of housing that provide varying levels of care and support;

Whereas independent living is a model that can be embraced by local governments via flexible zoning policies and other policy levers to promote quality of life for older adults, supporting them to stay well longer and age in place;

Whereas seniors have diverse financial situations, health conditions, cultural backgrounds, personal preferences, and wants that require flexible and adaptable housing solutions to support aging in place and community integration;

Whereas housing policies should be inclusive, responsive to changing demographic needs, and support the autonomy, dignity, and well-being of all seniors across the province; and

Whereas the City of Vancouver approved its first Seniors Housing Strategy in 2024, which addresses the unique housing needs of older adults, and should be considered an example for all municipalities across British Columbia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members:

Calls upon local governments across British Columbia to develop comprehensive Age-Friendly Housing Strategies that accommodate the diverse housing preferences, needs, and wants of seniors, ensuring that all forms of housing, including independent living, as well as assisted living, long-term care, and affordable housing, are considered and supported.