

B. POLICY MOTIONS

1. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING LONG-TERM CARE

WHEREAS British Columbia's population is aging rapidly and the Office of the Seniors Advocate has identified that the current supply of long-term care beds is insufficient to meet current or future needs, with many existing care homes requiring renewal or replacement to maintain safe, high-quality care;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Health has projected a need for nearly 16,000 additional long-term care beds by 2036 to meet the demands of an aging population, yet there is currently no comprehensive plan in place to guide how this capacity will be achieved;

AND WHEREAS the current cost of new construction for government-operated long-term care projects (averaging just over \$1.1 million per bed) is not financially sustainable;

AND WHEREAS a sustainable, predictable, and transparent funding model is essential to support quality care, workforce stability, operational planning and capital replacement for non-government providers, who deliver the majority of long-term care in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the funding provided to long-term care operators in British Columbia is insufficient to meet the provincial minimum care standards while maintaining financially viable and sustainable operations;

AND WHEREAS a robust supply of qualified health care workers is necessary to ensure quality and continuity of care for residents, and to reduce overreliance on overtime and agency staffing;

AND WHEREAS collaboration between government and non-government providers is vital to building a comprehensive strategy that addresses funding, infrastructure, and workforce needs, and ensures the long-term sustainability of B.C.'s continuing care system:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BC Care Providers Association, on behalf of its members, urges the B.C. Ministry of Health to collaborate with non-government care operators and the Ministry of Infrastructure on a comprehensive strategy to strengthen long-term care, including:

- Establishing a sustainable **funding model** that upholds the principles of timeliness, transparency, fairness, and equity;
- Co-create a comprehensive **staffing strategy** to address staffing shortages, reduce reliance on overtime and agency staffing, and build a robust supply of qualified health care workers to staff both new and existing long-term care spaces; and

- Developing a structured, multi-year continuing care **capital plan** to support current infrastructure and equipment requirements, as well as the expected demand for additional long-term care beds and spaces.

2. REFRESHING ASSISTED LIVING’S FUNDING & CARE DELIVERY MODEL

WHEREAS assisted living is intended to be a “middle option” in the seniors care continuum, providing essential housing, care, and support to older adults who require assistance with daily living but do not need the intensive services provided in long-term care, while also alleviating pressure on the broader health care system by helping residents maintain their independence and quality of life in a community setting;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Seniors Advocate has identified that the current supply of publicly subsidized assisted living spaces is insufficient to meet the growing needs of B.C.’s aging population;

AND WHEREAS there is no consistent methodology for funding assisted living — a shared responsibility between BC Housing and regional health authorities — and existing funding models have not been substantially updated in many years, failing to reflect the actual costs of delivering high-quality, resident-centred care;

AND WHEREAS there is no standardized staffing or care delivery model for assisted living in British Columbia, but instead different delivery models in each health authority region;

AND WHEREAS the assisted living resident population has become increasingly complex, with higher care needs and more chronic health conditions than in previous decades, requiring updated care models and staffing approaches;

AND WHEREAS rising costs, inflation, and increased resident acuity have placed significant financial pressure on non-government assisted living operators, threatening the sustainability of services and the quality of care:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BC Care Providers Association, on behalf of its members, calls on the B.C. Ministry of Health and B.C. Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs to work with non-government operators to refresh the assisted living model in B.C., including:

- Developing a unified vision for the care delivery model, ensuring alignment with current resident acuity and the provision of safe, high-quality care; and
- Co-creating a revised assisted living funding model, ensuring it reflects the actual costs of care and supports sustainable operations.

3. PURPOSE-BUILT TENANCY PROVISIONS FOR SENIORS' INDEPENDENT LIVING

WHEREAS independent living communities are designed for seniors who often require a blend of housing, hospitality and safety supports that fundamentally differ from standard rental housing;

AND WHEREAS the current Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) and regulations associated with it do not adequately address the distinct needs and challenges faced by seniors and operators of independent living communities, resulting in gaps that can compromise resident safety, community integrity, and financial viability;

AND WHEREAS current RTA rules restrict annual rent increases to the limit permitted by the Residential Tenancy Branch, which does not reflect the inflationary pressures and operational cost increases experienced by providers of independent living who offer hospitality services in addition to housing for seniors, thereby creating financial strain on operators;

AND WHEREAS key tenancy issues on independent living sites include a clear separation of rent for housing and hospitality service charges, the need for timely wellness checks, mechanisms for expedited termination of the tenancy contract when a resident requires to be transitioned to a higher level of care, and appropriate control over subletting arrangements;

AND WHEREAS purpose-built tenancy provisions would balance residents' rights with the specialized needs of independent living, enabling providers to operate on a financially viable model, while fulfilling their duty of care to residents:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members, calls upon the B.C. Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, to develop and implement purpose-built tenancy provisions specifically for independent living communities, which adequately address the unique needs of this enriched living model that allows seniors to age independently and with dignity.

4. ESTABLISHING AN AGING IN THE RIGHT PLACE TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS an overwhelming majority of Canadians across all ages, and nearly 100% of those aged 65 and older, report that they want to live safely and independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible;

AND WHEREAS independent living has increasingly become a preferred option for many older adults, allowing them to benefit from hospitality support services and household management, safety provisions and other wellness-focused activities in communities across British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS family-funded home health services and independent living communities are critical elements of the seniors' care continuum, providing greater choice, personalization and the ability to age with dignity for older adults;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Seniors Advocate identified that approximately 12.5% of the current population in a long-term care home could have been cared for at home with adequate home support and were prematurely transitioned to a higher level of care than needed;

AND WHEREAS, for these seniors who can be better supported at home, a refundable tax credit would be a more cost-effective option for the province than building and operating additional long-term care beds:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), on behalf of its members, calls upon the B.C. Ministry of Finance, to establish a refundable and income-tested tax credit to help offset the expenses incurred by seniors accessing family-funded home health support services or hospitality support services in independent living communities, thereby promoting their independence while reducing the pressures on the public healthcare system.