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Canadian Alliance For Long Term Care Supports Efforts to Strengthen Pan-Canadian Long Term Care Performance Reporting

Toronto – The Canadian Alliance for Long Term Care (CALTC) welcomes the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) public release of indicator results for the long term care sector as an important step in enabling the comparison of performance and identifying areas for improvement at the local, regional, provincial and national levels.

"As an association that represents over 1400 long term care homes across Canada, CALTC recognizes the value of collecting data and reporting on measures of safety, quality of life and general health of long term care residents, said Candace Chartier, CALTC's Board Chair and CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association. "Since its inception in 2002, CALTC's members have been working together to share information, best practices and evidence in order to improve the care provided to long term care residents, wherever they live." added Chartier.

From CIHI's expanded *Your Health System* web tool many Canadians will be able to see how their local long term care services compare with other communities – and with the provincial and national averages. It will also provide the provincial and federal governments an opportunity to learn from the results and respond to potential inequities in the access and quality of care available to Canadians in long term care.

"We fully support the collection and reporting of comparable data across jurisdictions that will support and enable pan-Canadian data analysis showing where we can and where we are improving," said Chartier. "This will become more and more important as Canada's population ages and the number of people with multiple, chronic conditions needing long term care increases. We will need to work together across jurisdictions and with federal leadership to ensure that Canadian seniors, regardless of where they live have equal access to safe, high quality long term care," Chartier added.

CIHI is currently fully reporting on nine long term care indicators in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Yukon, partially reporting on Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. CIHI does not currently have data for Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

"The performance data that is available to long term care homes in the Winnipeg region shows that long term care homes in this area are performing above the Canadian average in terms of addressing the physical, mental and social well-being of residents but have room for improvement, for example, in the use of restraints," says Jan Legeros, Executive Director of the Long Term and Continuing Care Association of Manitoba, a member of CALTC. "We look forward to full reporting of all homes in Manitoba, and indeed full reporting for all provinces and territories," added Legeros. "Full reporting will

help to paint an accurate picture of long term care performance and drive improvements in this important sector across the country."

CALTC is federally incorporated and the leading voice representing long term care providers that deliver publicly-funded health care services to seniors across Canada. CALTC members represent long term care homes that deliver quality care to Canada's most vulnerable seniors every day.

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