



Canadian Alliance for Long Term Care

November 19, 2015

The Honourable Jane Philpott
Federal Minister of Health
Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Jane Philpott,

On behalf of the Canadian Alliance of Long Term Care (CALTC), we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Federal Minister of Health.

Your experience working as a physician and as chair for the department of family medicine at the Markham Stouffville Hospital, means that you know firsthand the challenges facing Canada's health care system.

CALTC represents long term care providers that deliver publicly-funded health care services to seniors across Canada. Since its inception in 2002, we 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.

During the election campaign, in response to our election survey, the Liberal party committed to:

- Allocate a portion of the \$20 billion investment in social infrastructure over ten years to funding long-term care infrastructure for seniors' care.
- Develop a pan-Canadian Dementia Strategy
- Invest in research and prevention in order to delay onset of dementia related diseases.

Recent polling commissioned by CALTC shows that Canadians are overwhelmingly concerned about the ability of Canada's long term care system to care for seniors when living at home is no longer possible. More than 9 in 10 Canadians are concerned that patients are waiting too long for placement into long term care homes, that staffing levels are not adequate, and that the sector will not have the capacity to provide the level of care needed by the growing number of seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

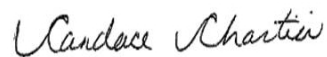
The survey also found that less than 2 in 10 Canadians believe that Canada is prepared for the growing requirements of seniors who need long term care, especially those with dementia.

Caring for our seniors is one of the most important things we can do as a society and according to the survey, Canadians want government to do more. In fact, Canadians want the federal government to take action now to help ensure that seniors have access long term care.

We're pleased that this new government is committed to improving the lives of our seniors. We think we can help and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share our ideas on how to improve long term care in Canada.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you soon. By working together we can find innovative ways to ensure that our seniors are getting the best care possible.

Sincerely,



Ms. Candace Chartier, Chair
Canadian Alliance of Long Term Care

- c. Daniel Fontaine, CALTC Vice-Chair and CEO, BC Care Providers Association
Tammy Leach, CALTC Vice-Chair and CEO, Alberta Continuing Care Association
Jan Legeros, CALTC Treasurer and Executive Director, Long Term & Continuing Care Association of Manitoba