

Questions submitted for Minister Response at BCCPA, DHA, BCSLA Event

October 9, 2013

1. *In an environment where government has very little capital expenditure room, what are the Minister's thoughts about how to make it easier for private, community organizations, to meet the expanding need for residential care facilities?*
2. *What is the government's direction on the replacement of old residential care bed stock and the introduction of new facilities to meet the demands of the growing population of seniors who will require facility based care in the future?*
3. *Minister, a couple of years ago the BC Care Providers Association unveiled something we referred to as the Dis-Org chart. It helped visualize the fact our sector is not simply regulated, but in many areas it has become over regulated. The result of this over-regulation translates every day into frontline care aides spending precious time hugging computers, not residents.*

One recent example is the new BC Care Aide Registry which started out with the best of intentions, but has now added yet another layer of red tape and bureaucracy – without necessarily getting us closer to what I believe we all want as the intended outcome - protecting seniors from abuse.

Knowing this...would you be open to establishing a joint task force with fair representation from the long-term care sector as well as ministry and health authority "experts" to jointly make suggestions for efficiencies in the regulatory processes reducing cost and organizing the disorganization. If so, is there any way this could be tied into the government's Core Review Process?

4. *Minister, we are just heading into a new round of bargaining to negotiate the next collective agreement. During the last round, your government had a net-zero mandate and contracted service providers were told there would be enough efficiencies built into the new collective agreement to cover any additional labour costs.*

But in the end, as you may know, many contracted service providers were left scrambling to cover increased labour costs associated with the last net-zero collective agreement – It is worth noting the manner in which service providers were provided funding to cover the costs of the agreement also varied widely depending on which health region they operated in.

*As a result, many service providers are nervous they will not have adequate opportunity to help set the mandate for upcoming negotiations – and may end up having to bear additional costs once again. What will your approach be for the next round of negotiations...and can you commit that any additional labour costs will be fully and equally funded **in all** of the health regions?*

5. *Minister, during the election the BC Liberal Party platform included a commitment to double the number of hospice beds by 2020. As you may know, many of the current long-term care providers are essentially providing end of life care.*

Therefore is there a role you would see BCCPA and DHA members playing in helping your government meet its commitment for hospice care?

- 6. At one time there was talk by the BC Liberal party that they would like to fund the individual who was qualified through an evaluation process to receive care as opposed to being sent to a funded facility in one of the health authorities. In this manner, they or their family, could then shop around as to which care facility they would like to live in. This would provide millions of dollars in savings in a bureaucracy presently setup to work out funding arrangements with the various health authorities. Is funding the individual something the Liberal Government is still committed to?*
- 7. Given the growing prevalence of dementia and cognitive impairment among seniors, what plans or services are being contemplated to address their needs especially those seniors who have no other needs (i.e. require no other ADL's)? Is the MOH is considering any additional funded housing programs – ie, more assisted living or a hybrid model that falls between assisted living and complex care on the continuum*
- 8. Is the Ministry still emphasizing keeping seniors in their homes as long as possible? If so, how does this plan deal with assessing the needs of the senior and deciding when the senior needs to move to a care community?*
- 9. Seniors lumped under MOH. Why do seniors programs always seem to take a back seat when it comes to division of money and are the first services cut if there is a shortfall for health concerns?*
- 10. The **SAFER** program limits are now falling behind what is happening in the market place. How will the MOH work towards increasing the amounts to reflect today's rents?*
- 11. Is government funded assisted living being phased out in favour of the Closer to Home program?*
- 12. More seniors are staying at home longer. What is the funding model to support this shift in health care?*
- 13. What do you think needs to be done to increase access to home support?*
- 14. With resources tight and few additional long-term care site opening...what role do you think independent and assisted living operators play in the government's plans for seniors in need of housing.*
- 15. Please comment on the current and future role of faith-based organizations in seniors housing.*
- 16. Would the minister accept the Haro Park Centre's invitation to spend a 24 hour cycle as a weekend guest at our facility?*
- 17. Before the 2013 election in May MLA Ralph Sultan said the improvement to the seniors sector was about as complete as it would be (Province Newspaper May 6, 2013). Do you stand by this statement given the Liberal government has successfully implemented only 6% of the BC*

Ombudsperson's 179 recommendations to improve fairness in seniors care? Further, only 25% of them have even been acknowledged. Will you work harder to make the Ombudsperson's recommendations happen?

- 18. Please provide the vision and commitment for funding Better at Home to provide stable, sustainable, quality care.*
- 19. As people age, including our doctors, to reduce costs, pollution, traffic gridlock and the inconvenience of making numerous doctor trips, would it be possible to have younger doctors have offices and hours at the care facilities in future?*
- 20. Doctors are retiring. Seniors cannot locate a new doctor. Is there any way to address this problem?*
- 21. How do you see the BC government assisting the elderly and nutritional supportive education as a way to get away from pharmacological use?*
- 22. What are the prospects for more federal money for home care and home support?*
- 23. What is your plan for implementing the BC Ombudsperson's recommendations, particularly on home support?*
- 24. How will core review process impact seniors care?*
- 25. Can you please describe the kind of work you see the new Seniors Advocate doing, given the office will be focused on "systemic issues".*
- 26. What are the BC Government's Ministry of Health plans to provide healthy living and accommodation for seniors living in poverty?*
- 27. The new Dementia Action Plan is a good first step. Thank you. Would you consider taking it further in line with Prime Minister David Cameron's "Dementia Challenge" in the U.K.? This entails "Dementia-Friendly Communities" and as such, working with non-profits, municipal governments and others, to build supports for the roughly 70% of people who are living with dementia in the community?*
- 28. When new care beds are announced how many are existing beds that are moving to the new facility? How many are truly new?*
- 29. In residential care we are increasingly seeing younger residents with complex mental health and/or addictions histories. They often present with behavioural issues and are "scary" for our older frail residents suffering from dementia. Is there a plan to meet the needs of the younger senior (i.e. 60-65) who present mental health addictions in purpose built facilities that would better meet their needs?*
- 30. How will the Ministry of Health provide equality of funding for residential care (long term care) for those who choose to reside in private pay care facilities that provide for their ethnic culture and religious beliefs.*

31. Has or will there be any consideration given to returning community care facilities licensing to the Ministry of Health, i.e. taking them away from health authorities and standardizing licensing provincially again?