



**Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Focus Should Be On Quality of Care, Regardless
of Ownership Type, in Continuing Care Sector**

Public Interest Alberta (PIA), an advocacy group, is raising questions about the profit margins in privately operated seniors' facilities in Alberta. The providers also received grant funding under Alberta's Affordable Supportive Living Initiative (ASLI). All ASLI applications include budgets which may not reflect reality and will not include all expenses (building amortization, mortgage principle repayment, etc.)

As the article indicates, Jenny Renner, Alberta Seniors' spokeswoman, said "a proponent receives the same level of funding and must meet the same standards and requirements, regardless of whether they are a non-profit, private or faith-based operator."

In January of 2015, the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) released two reports that address continuing care in Alberta from the perspective of residents and their families. The Reports titled *Supportive Living Residents & Family Experience* indicate that "facility ownership (whether a facility is owned by Alberta Health Services, or a private or voluntary organization) did not have any influence on resident and family experiences."

Contracted service providers, whether they are for profit or not for profit, make significant investments into continuing care (housing and support services) operations and should have a return on investment. They offer operational efficiency and creativity that leads to a sustainable industry. The reality is that all private, public, and voluntary organizations contracted with Alberta Health Services are funded the same and have to comply with the same accountabilities. "More important is the conversation that the continuing care sector in Alberta has long been neglected," says Tammy Leach, CEO of the Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA). Alberta's continuing care sector is funded 19% less than the national average, while Alberta's acute care system is funded 33% higher than the national average. "Alberta needs to rebalance the funding scale."

"Regardless of ownership structure, there needs to be a shift in our focus to support innovative strategy aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of housing, services and care received by seniors and persons with disabilities. Continuing Care operations (Home Care, Supportive Living and Long Term Care) must be funded equitably and sufficiently across the province to ensure Albertans receive excellent housing and care, when and where they need it," says Irene Martin-Lindsay, Executive Director, ASCHA.

About ASCHA

For 50 years the Alberta Senior Citizens' Housing Association (ASCHA) has championed the seniors housing industry by supporting our members in creating and maintaining vibrant seniors housing for Albertans. ASCHA members provide housing to over 30,000 seniors across the province. This includes the full spectrum of seniors housing options including independent living, supportive living and designated supportive living choices offered by all sectors (voluntary, public and private).

For immediate information contact:

Irene Martin-Lindsay, Executive Director
Phone: 780.439.6473 **Cell:** 780.906.7585
Email: irene@ascha.com

Doug Mills, ASCHA President
Cell: 780.982.2848