

ASCHA's 2015 Focused Priority



The following 2015 advocacy priority was identified by the ASCHA Board, tying into principled positions and core values, and addressed through ASCHA's Advocacy Strategy. This short-term priority is broadly discussed.

1. Housing Strategy

A housing strategy is very important to both the province and the industry, and should be aligned to include all other visionary/directional strategies and implementation plans. A housing strategy is more than bricks and mortar - it must include an overall approach to housing and align with the Homelessness Strategy through to Social/Affordable Housing, Continuing Care and Dementia Care Strategies. ASCHA's focus is on our members and those they serve, and with that as a starting point, the housing strategy needs:

a. Housing First

The base is housing and all support services (e.g. health, social, financial), should be in place to supplement housing and support resident wellbeing. For a person-centred focus to work in the province, ministerial mandates addressing seniors, housing, health and other related concerns need to be better coordinated. Health is only one of the co-determinants of wellbeing and should not dictate where an individual may live. A solid vision and strong leadership are essential for a collaborative approach to person-centred housing. All government budgets pertaining to housing and support services, including health support services, should be under one ministry.

b. Financial Sustainability of All Sectors

A comprehensive business model and funding strategy, jointly crafted by government and ASCHA, need to be developed. This plan should effectively deliver, maintain and support the housing strategy and maintain financial sustainability of the industry so that it is not solely reliant on government support. Financial sustainability should include income/asset testing.

c. Housing Management Bodies (HMBs)

Housing Management Bodies/Operators must be permitted to manage their responsibility with authority as set out in their mandate. Efficiency should be optimized through clear government communication, direction and vision.

d. A Capital Real Estate Plan

A capital real estate plan inclusive of life/fire safety considerations must be developed as part of the housing strategy to ensure adequate housing is available for current and future needs and is fully aligned for the housing and health continuum.

Outcome: A comprehensive provincial Housing Strategy projecting future needs will enable communities to plan effectively and predictably for their future housing needs based on the principles of a housing first model. A person-centred focus will allow choices for residents to age well in community. As housing is a basic need, one permanent ministry is the ultimate outcome of government, including budget accountabilities.

ASCHA's 2015 Focused Priority is supplemental to our Strategic Plan and clarifies our focused advocacy efforts.

As always, member insights are welcome!

