

April 11, 2024

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange,

I wanted to write to you to introduce myself as the new President of the Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association (ASCHA).

You have corresponded with our current Executive – our VPs Robin James, Nancy Simmonds, and Melodie Stol, as well as a few other board members and ASCHA team members. My intention is to expand on the collaboration and momentum underway on the transformation of continuing care and the refocusing of AHS, and the implications to our housing portfolios and approaches to wrap-around services.

I have had the pleasure of being a past ASCHA Executive Member, as the VP of the Central Region, before my term expired in 2022. ASCHA has wonderful leadership and a very passionate team, I am honoured to serve with them again. As a Councillor with the County of Stettler, I know the balance that must be struck between serving, policy decisions, governance and internal advocacy. Again, ASCHA truly appreciates your advocacy within Government to ensure a more responsive healthcare system is in place to serve the needs of Albertans across the full spectrum of seniors housing options in the communities they choose to call home.

Which brings me to another reason for writing today. At our most recent Annual General Meeting on March 12, the ASCHA membership approved ASCHA Resolution 2-2024, *24/7 Home Care Supports in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodation*. We have attached this resolution for your review.

Access to adequate supports, many of which can be offered through Health Care Aides, has shown to be an effective approach in housing environments, preventing moves to higher levels of care that can be quite costly for the system and disruptive for seniors and their loved ones. Sometimes seniors only require temporary supports while they recover from an illness or injury, which could be provided in their lodge unit or supportive living setting. This is why ASCHA's members are calling on your Government to provide 24/7 home care services as part of the basket of services offered in lodges and supportive living environments currently without access to these unscheduled supports.

We at ASCHA understand lodge and supportive living settings are people's homes. We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to health support delivery in people's homes, which include lodges and supportive living, to ensure that Albertans receive the quality healthcare they deserve. Irene Martin-Lindsay, ASCHA's Executive Director, can be reached at irene@ascha.com or 780.439.6473 to schedule this meeting.



Thank you for considering this resolution, and as ASCHA's new President, I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,



James Nibourg, ASCHA President

CC: Melodie Stol, Vice-President, Central Region; Nancy Simmonds, Vice-President North;
Robin James, Vice-President, South Region; Irene Martin-Lindsay, Executive Director

