

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Accommodation Increase for Long Term Care Facilities Helps Address Rising Costs

Edmonton... Alberta Seniors and Community Supports announced today that effective February 1, 2011 there will be a three percent increase in maximum accommodation fees for residents of long term care facilities.

The Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA) thanks the government and the Minister for recognizing the need for an increase. Accommodation fees were last increased in November 2008 and this marks the first increase in over two years.

Owners and operators face numerous challenges in providing quality hospitality services, including increased staff compensation, food and other supply costs, repair and maintenance costs of aging facilities and must comply with Provincial Accommodation Standards.

“ACCA members operate close to 10,000 long term care beds in Alberta providing direct care and support services to their residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provide more than 13 million hours of resident care per year”, stated Bruce West, Executive Director for the Alberta Continuing Care Association. “Our members continue to face inflationary pressures and this accommodation fee increase is necessary and welcomed. We are pleased that the government will also be providing additional funding to the Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) programs to assist low income residents with these increased costs.”

“ACCA has been advocating for annual accommodation fee review and we look forward to working with the Ministry to establish a framework that will tie regulated maximum accommodation fees with the costs of providing hospitality services” states ACCA President, Dr. Hasmukh Patel

Long term care accommodation fees in Alberta have long remained among the lowest in the nation. ACCA continues to advocate and champion the best patient centred continuing care system in Canada which is both efficient and sustainable.

Backgrounder

Alberta Continuing Care Association

The Alberta Continuing Care Association is a non-profit association which represents owners and operators of continuing care including long term care and designated assisted living facilities and home care and support services throughout the province of Alberta.

ACCA members employ over 16,000 Albertans who deliver over 20 million hours of hands-on care annually to more than 46,000 seniors and younger disabled adults in Alberta's continuing care system. ACCA is the only organization in Canada with an alliance of private, non-profit and public sector long term care, supportive living and home care and support organizations.

ACCA holds a vision to advocate for and champion the best continuing care system in Canada; enhancing quality of life for individuals receiving continuing care by assisting members in networking, advocacy, education and pursuit of best interests.

Breakdown of Accommodation Fees

Accommodation Fees in long term care facilities pay for:

- Resident room and other living spaces such as dining room and lounges
- Meal Services - three meals per day, plus snacks and other nourishment
- Housekeeping Services – housekeeping staff and supplies, facility laundry (towels, bedding, etc.)
- Building Maintenance – regular repair and maintenance,, grounds keeping, and security
- Building Operations – utilities (gas, electricity), water and sewer, building insurance
- Social and recreational activities
- Facility management and administration - including payroll, accounting, finance and human resource functions

Definitions

Facility Living

Facility living includes long term care facilities like nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals. Care is provided for people with complex health needs who are unable to remain at home or in supportive living.

Long term care settings provide both accommodation and health services. Residents pay a fee to cover the costs of providing accommodations and hospitality services including meals, housekeeping, laundry and building maintenance.

Health services in long term care are publicly funded through Alberta Health Services.

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