

Announcement



March 24, 2011

Long-term care providers need to return to charging residents for cable services

EDMONTON – In a letter sent yesterday to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, Honourable Mary Anne Jablonski, the Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA) advised that their long-term care provider members will start to charge their residents for personal cable television services starting May 1, 2011. This practice was ended in 2003 when government regulated maximum long term care accommodation fees were raised significantly in recognition of the rising costs of providing accommodation services. “This was not an easy decision, it’s been great that our members have been able to provide cable television services to residents’ rooms at no extra charge for many years” says executive director, Bruce West.

The decision comes in view of the fact that increases in maximum accommodation fees are unpredictable, many times falling short of the actual costs of providing services and the expiration of a bulk cable television contract with a major provider. The new contract will mean many operators will be facing an immediate 25% increase to cable television service costs the first year and future increases of 3% or more yearly over the next 4 years.

Cable television is not one of the basic accommodation services, which include meals and meal service, housekeeping services, laundering of towels and linens and social and leisure activities. Other services which are the responsibility of long-term care residents are personal laundry services, hair care, personal goods and services and transportation for recreational purposes.

The ACCA continues to advocate and champion for the best continuing care system in Canada. The Association’s number one priority is to increase the quality of care for the Albertan’s in our members’ care. Today’s announcement is in accordance with the Association’s [2011 Strategic Directions](#) to “Secure adequate and predictable resources for quality care” and the Association’s focus to advocate for high standards and quality performance by its members.

For further information feel free to contact the association at: info@ab-cca.ca