

CALTC applauds Budget 2018's investment in seniors

More needs to be done to improve infrastructure, stabilize workforce

February 27, 2018

The Canadian Association for Long Term Care (CALTC) supports the Canadian government's investments that will improve the lives of seniors, as part of the 2018 Budget.

"We applaud the federal government's commitment of \$20 million for community-based dementia programming and investments in the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project in New Brunswick," said Daniel Fontaine, Chair of CALTC. "These investments are a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to meet the needs of seniors in Canada."

Canada's population is aging. According to Statistics Canada, Canadians age 65 and over represent 17 per cent of the country's population, up from 15 per cent five years earlier. Coupled with this, seniors are entering long-term care with more complex and multiple health conditions, at a later age in life.

CALTC has identified three key priorities that the federal government must focus on to better care for Canada's aging population, complementing its new funding for seniors:

- Allow care providers to access federal infrastructure funding in order to modernize ageing care homes across Canada;
- Invest in a new standardized digital data collection system which would allow the federal government to better compare province by province outcomes and quality of care;
- In partnership with the sector, develop a new pan-Canadian health human resources plan to meet a critical shortage of front line care workers.

"Seniors today are spending more time living at home, and by the time they enter our long-term care homes they are more frail, with greater care needs," said Daniel Fontaine. "The recent Senate Report on Dementia highlighted the growing challenge our health care system faces in supporting those with serious and complex conditions, and we know that specific investments in dementia is just one aspect of what is needed."

CALTC looks forward to continue working with the federal government to enable provinces and front-line workers to provide the best possible care to Canada's seniors.

About the Canadian Association for Long Term Care (CALTC)

The Canadian Association for Long Term Care (CALTC) is a national organization comprised of provincial associations and long-term care providers that deliver publicly-funded health care services for seniors across Canada.

CALTC members represent care providers responsible for the employment of Canadians and delivering quality care to Canada's most vulnerable residents each day. For more information: www.caltc.ca

For further information:

Jessica Stepic, contact@caltc.ca, (416) 433-8087