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ACCA COMMUNIQUÉ

Thursday, February 14, 2019

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CEO Commentary

Certainly on everyone's mind is the upcoming Provincial Election. We are encouraging our local candidates and elected officials to show their commitment to Alberta's seniors and those requiring Continuing Care to reach out to care providers to tour your homes, have conversations with your staff and meet residents and those for whom you provide care.



ACCA has a listing of Member Care Homes and Home Care zones broken down by riding which we have shared with nominated candidates and is available to Members as you set up meetings to support our Government Relations strategy. Candidates want to meet with you during this lead up to the election! ACCA is here to support you and encourages you to connect with us for additional assistance whenever needed.

A benefit of membership with ACCA means also having a voice at the Federal table through our being on the Executive of the Canadian Association of Long Term Care. Last week, CALTC met with key stakeholders in Ottawa as part of our third Lobby Day on Parliament Hill. In addition to the Lobby Day, the Association's first annual #BecauseYouCare Campaign happening this week until February 16 aims to raise awareness about the challenges facing the sector. The initiative urges members of parliament across the country to show their commitment to Canada's seniors by visiting at least one long term care home in their riding during the week.

CALTC is tracking the visits on [their website here](#). So far, BC leaders seem to be leading the way; let's see that competitive spirit Albertans are known for, Alberta Members of Parliament! #BecauseYouCare!

ACCA's Greatest Strength: Our Members!

Tammy Leach, Chief Executive Officer

Public Policy

Congratulations Rivercrest Care Centre!

The Health Quality Council of Alberta has profiled Rivercrest Care Centre as the third in their four-part series featuring positive stories from long-term care facilities in Alberta. These facilities either demonstrated improvements or maintained good results in HQCA's Long-term Care Family Experience Surveys.

[Click here to view a short video](#) about the Rivercrest Care Centre initiative and to see what they did to improve resident and family experiences.

Congratulations Rivercrest on this great news story!

#BecauseYouCare !



February 10 - 16, 2019 

It's Coming! IQ 2019

Dementia Calgary Roundtable: ACCA participated in a Roundtable Event on February 9 in Calgary that brought all political parties together to speak about their commitments to Albertans living with Dementia.

Meeting with Alberta Health Services: ACCA had a productive meeting with Dr. Verna Yiu and Dr. Kathryn Todd of AHS on February 8. Dr. Todd is leading AHS's *Enhancing Care in the Community* which focuses on wellness of individuals and keeping seniors in their homes and communities. ACCA shared some of the key messages being discussed with all political parties and how our request for government to enhance Continuing Care infrastructure as well as provide broader system supports such as Home Care and Community Care aligns with the *Enhancing Care in the Community* initiative. Dr. Yiu offered AHS's expertise to ACCA members in Building a Quality Culture.

Continuing Care Facilities Comprehensive Reporting Committee: The Committee met on February 11. Based on consultations with stakeholders, the requirement for Quarterly Submissions will not change. It was recommended that the lock-out function in the FIRMS system be removed to allow for 24/7 submission coverage. Although FIRMS submission automation exists, operators are not required to use this function and can continue to use the spreadsheet. A discussion was undertaken on new reporting lines which will be implemented Q4 of this year. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2019.

Member Value and Engagement

Membership Meeting - Thank You! On February 7, Members and guests braved the cold temperatures in joining ACCA for our first Membership Meeting of 2019. We heard from new members, had a presentation on "Just Culture" from Dr. Flemons of the Health Quality Council of Alberta, and had an interactive workshop on empathy and trust in leadership communications, facilitated by Sidney Craig Courtice.

An important update on our Government Relations activities and initiatives was also given. We invite you to save the date for our next meeting to be held in Edmonton on May 9 and featuring Dr. William Dalziel, a sought after and engaging speaker on matters related to dementia care, and his topic "Passport to Healthy Aging".

Supportive Living Working Group: The ACCA Supportive Living Working Group held its inaugural meeting on January 23, 2019. Participants reviewed the report from the Strengthening Supportive Living Workshop that was held in Red Deer in 2018. The five key themes that emerged from the Workshop were; 1) Funding; 2) Communication; 3) Alignment; 4) Staffing; and 5) Innovation. The Working Group is reconvening on **February 27** at the Sheraton in Red Deer to prioritize the themes and propose

October 23 & 24



Responsive Behaviours Symposium VII

ICCER is proud to be hosting its 7th Annual Responsive Behaviours Symposium, Building Resilience: Caring for the Care Provider. While there are no seats available to attend the Symposium in-person, interested individuals may register via Zoom webinar. Happening February 20, [click here](#) for details including Webinar information.

Cannabis in LTC Project

A pilot study is currently being conducted by ACCA Member Spectrum Cannabis (a wholly owned subsidiary of Canopy Growth Corporation) to better understand the impact of medical cannabis for residents in long term care. The study will include 500 (+) residents making it the largest ever in long term care. Although much of the recruiting is complete, the team is interested to hear from new homes who have a desire and passion to be on the leading edge of driving change in the sector.

solutions. Please contact debra.brunner@ab-cca.ca to register!

Email Kate Brockington, Administrative Manager, at kate@initiative3.com for more information.

Community Engagement

Did you know? Every morning between 8:30 and 10:00, before the stores open, around 100 people gather in the Southgate Centre shopping mall in Edmonton for tai chi classes, dancing and walking groups! A large majority of the participants are seniors who credit the classes with keeping them happy and healthy. More than exercise, said one instructor, the students "come here because they take this as a family. We care about each other, and we also help each other."

[Click here for the CBC Story](#) that shares more on this heartwarming initiative, innovative and entirely improvised, that has fostered a true community. To think, it all began simply by a tai chi instructor, who happened to own a cookie and muffin store in the mall, negotiating with the Centre to offer a free class.

Great things can happen when we talk to and care for each other, are willing to think outside the box, and celebrate healthy aging.

That's something that should warm everyone's heart on this Valentine's Day!

Contact Us

Share your comments and concerns with us at any time, whether online in the Members' Only section at www.ab-cca.ca or email heather.aggus@ab-cca.ca!



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