

# Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

## Response to Alberta Continuing Care Association

Please see responses to your questions below.

- 1. If elected, will you increase inventory, adding more choices for Albertans by creating or re-instituting financial programs that will support non-profit, faith-based and independent [continuing care] operators?**

Since 2015 Rachel Notley and Alberta's NDP have been fighting to defend and protect patient care. That includes adding 1,200 additional doctors and 1,200 additional nurses, launching a provincial Dementia Strategy, and creating more than 2,100 long term care and dementia beds in every corner of the province, aimed at helping seniors age close to their home and near their families. If re-elected, we will create 2,000 new long-term care beds over the next five years. When determining which model to use to build those beds we will carefully assess each project to ensure it is built and operated in a manner that best serves the needs of Albertans in terms of cost, quality of care and efficiency of construction.

- 2. If elected, will you work with providers to permit, over time, Alberta's accommodation rates to be benchmarked at the national average or at a level that will allow operators to provide higher quality programs for our Seniors and those in need of CC?**

There is no doubt that, as you have pointed out, accommodation rates have not kept up with the costs of providing and improving quality to Alberta seniors. We have made a significant commitment to further expanding continuing care. If re-elected we are open to discussing the issue of appropriate rates with providers, families and continuing care workers.

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- 3. If elected, will you allow a broader program of Home Care and empower Continuing Care providers in good standing to offer Home Care in their regions, as well as in their own facilities?**

Since 2015 we have increased funding for home care by 29%, ensuring that more Albertans can leave hospital sooner and stay in their homes longer. We believe a review of home care delivery is due and would be willing to consider a discussion with providers, families and health care professionals to seek out ways to improve home care delivery.

- 4. If elected, will you work with ACCA members to streamline regulatory, reporting, audits, capital planning and decision-making for Continuing Care operators and Continuing Care residents and clients?**

We are always open to innovations within government and we would be happy to work with ACCA members to find efficiencies and streamline operations in a way that preserves high quality service delivery.

- 5. If elected, will you establish a comprehensive funding mechanism centered in a Ministry that ensures transparency in Continuing Care funding, leading to a clear understanding of costs across all operators (AHS, non-profit, faith-based and independent) and make certain that cost of living increases intended to provide programs for Continuing Care residents and clients are indeed passed through to support programs for those Albertans?**

We understand that all too often, Continuing Care can take a backseat to other demands within the health care system. However, since 2015 we have made significant improvements to continuing care, and we're committed to doing even more, including creating 2,000 new long-term care beds over the next five years. With regard to transparency, we have made significant improvements to transparency within government, and we are always looking for further ideas to build on that record. If re-elected we are happy to discuss improvements specifically to transparency around Continuing Care funding with you.

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- 6. If elected, will you delegate a Ministry to be directly responsible for the oversight, decision-making, regulating and funding to all Continuing Care providers (AHS, non-profit, faith-based and independent)?**

The Minister of Health is ultimately responsible for the funding and oversight related to the Continuing Care program in Alberta.

- 7. If elected, will you support adding quality living space inventory to Albertans using the lowest cost providers and empowering local community partners, which may include Housing Management Bodies in rural Alberta?**

Our priority in building housing is to ensure high quality living space for Albertans while getting the best value for Albertans' tax dollars. Balancing high quality and value-for-money is a key element of our approach to building housing for Albertans.

- 8. If elected, will you update older regulations and legislation to streamline regulatory burdens and allow modern care professionals to work to their full scope of practice?**

We are always open to working with stakeholders on the modernization and updating of provincial statutes or specific rules found therein. If re-elected we are happy to discuss this matter with stakeholders including your association.