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Wednesday, April 8, 2020

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ACCA Executive Director Commentary



To say these are challenging times for everyone would be an understatement, particularly for the Continuing Care industry. With the reality of the scope of the pandemic and the constantly evolving challenges and anxieties, what has remained consistent through all the turmoil has been our members' dedication to continuing to provide the very best care possible for their clients, residents and their teams.

Your ACCA Board and staff will continue to work hard to support your efforts. This includes maintaining a document of emerging issues and recommendations for consideration by Alberta Health Services and the Ministry, and advocacy efforts on key issues such as staffing and workforce gaps.

As we head into the Easter weekend, the social distancing we are all practicing reminds us just how woven together our lives really are and that the important things are our health, friends and loved ones. While there may not be as many people around your dinner table as usual, reach out virtually where possible, stay safe, and know that we will get through this together.

Wayne Morishita, Executive Director

Public Policy

St. Michael's Mobile X-Ray

St. Michael's Mobile X-Ray is considered an essential service not included in the CMOH announcement of March 27 where "AHS will be postponing any diagnostic imaging procedures that are considered non-urgent by the ordering physician". They are able to complete all categories of requisitions, including routine, and are available to any continuing care site in the Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer areas. Please call 780.472.4504 for information.

ICCER Webinar Series

ICCER has shifted its networking and education events to an online platform and will offer a series of webinars in the coming months. The webinars are suitable for a variety of audiences including all levels of staff, faculty, students, and family members/caregivers

Member Input Sought to Advise Dept. of Labour and

Immigration: ACCA has been asked to survey the membership to help advise the Department of Labour and Immigration in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please respond with your input to the below questions to heather.aggus@ab-cca.ca by April 14, 2020.

1. Please provide input on your organization's experience regarding shortage of workers, training and other workforce gaps.
2. How urgent is your organization's need for workers/training?
3. What are some examples of efforts that you have taken to gain access to labour needed?
4. What kind of potential support could government provide?

Weekly Alberta Health/Alberta Health Services

Meeting: ACCA meets weekly with AH and AHS to discuss key issues. Topics discussed during the April 1 meeting included results of a rapid survey issued to the membership regarding limitations on who is visiting care homes, whether there will be an Accommodation Rate increase (no update on this yet), staffing issues being experienced in all care streams of continuing care, and access to PPE/Thermometers.

Continuing Care an Essential Service, Following ACCA

Advocacy Efforts: All Continuing Care staff (home care, supportive living, long term care) are now designated as Essential Workers. This designation recognizes the essential role of Continuing Care staff in the health system, many of whom have been experiencing difficulties receiving expedited COVID-19 tests, accessing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and securing child-care.

This designation follows advocacy efforts by ACCA and other sector stakeholders, and is included in [this Summary of recent ACCA activities](#) undertaken in support of the Membership.

Member Value and Engagement

Congratulations Centric Health! Centric Health recently announced their acquisition of Remedy's RX Specialty Pharmacies, with the transaction expected to close in May.

involved in all levels of continuing care. *Family members of residents from ICCER member organizations are considered ICCER members and can register for free!*

Thursday, April 16 @10:00 am
MDT: [Creating Meaningful Relationships with Family Caregivers Part 1: the Caregiver-Centered Competency Framework](#)

Thursday, April 30 @10:00 am
MDT: [Creating Meaningful Relationships with Family Caregivers Part 2: The Carers Support Needs Assessment Tool](#)

#StayHealthyAB Campaign

On April 7, the [Alberta Medical Association](#) launched the #StayHealthyAB public education campaign, highlighting healthy advice from Alberta's doctors and health care providers. Check out Alberta doctor-prescribed tips on staying healthy and join the #StayHealthyAB Challenge by adding stickers and frames to your own social media posts and sharing your own versions of doctor videos!

Learn more [by clicking here](#).

Contact Us!

Please [click here](#) to read a message from Centric Health President & CEO David Murphy.

Great Caring Initiative From Bethany Care Society! Here is a



wonderful initiative from Bethany Airdrie which invites individuals of residents and their kids to partake in and care for their community. How? By simply cutting out some hearts or creating a card and writing a

message of kindness. Well wishes and notes can then be dropped at Bethany Airdrie site (located by the front doors). The beige bin will be available daily Monday-Friday between 8am and 4pm. If your cards/notes are too large, please place them under the box for safe keeping.

Here's the address: 1736 1 Avenue NW Airdrie, AB T4B 2C4

We would love to hear all of your uplifting stories and ways you are continuing to bring smiles to the faces of your clients and residents!

Share your comments online at www.ab-cca.ca or email heather.aggus@ab-cca.ca or any ACCA team member at any time! Regularly check the team blog for updates on strategic meetings also.

Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter!](#)

Please note: ACCA will be closed Good Friday, April 10, and Easter Monday, April 13. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

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