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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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## ACCA Executive Director Commentary

Monday was Heritage Day in Alberta, a day to recognize and celebrate the cultural wealth and historical heritage of our great province. Similarly, the diversity of the ACCA membership is one of our greatest strengths and we are proud to advance excellence and innovation of all streams of Continuing Care in Alberta and of all organizational types, whether private, not-for-profit or faith-based. Our diversity allows us to bring quality care to Albertans when, where, and how they need it.

We thank you for your continued support and encourage you to continue to like, comment, and share our social media posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

Wayne Morishita, Executive Director

## Public Policy

**Meeting with Alberta Health:** The ACCA met with representatives from Alberta Health on August 3. The updated Operational and Outbreak Standards which came into effect on July 31. A communication was issued by Alberta Health on July 30 confirming that, despite provincial announcements regarding changes to quarantine and isolation across the province, Order 37 still takes precedence within Continuing Care settings. A review process of this Order is being initiated by AH through August, including reviewing the operator types that should be within the scope of the Order (e.g. whether non-designated SL should still be included).

Regarding single site staffing, Alberta Labour had hired a mediator on behalf of the province, bringing together employer and Union representatives. Two sessions have been held with two more to be facilitated by week's end. Objectives are to seek input, advice and reach consensus, where possible, regarding the transition process from single site staffing.

Concerns were also raised regarding the provincial changes for public isolation, testing and quarantine requirements; chiefly that

## Continuing Care Facility Directory

Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services invites members to take part in the evolution of the [Directory](#). Participation in the Directory provides your organization with another opportunity to make the public aware of your site(s) and the services and amenities that you provide. Participation in the Directory is voluntary for non-AHS contracted supportive living sites. AHS will be hosting various information sessions about the Directory and to answer any questions you may have. For more information, please contact [facility.directory@ahs.ca](mailto:facility.directory@ahs.ca). Please register for either of the upcoming dates:

[Wed August 11: 12:00 - 12:45pm](#)

[Thur August 12: 9:00 - 9:45am](#)

## Medication Assistance Program

Alberta Health Services is seeking input regarding updates to their Provincial Medication Assistance Program (MAP) Manual and invites practice consultants and Continuing Care stakeholders [to complete](#)

the changes severely increase difficulty implementing Order 37. Alberta Health noted that in transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic, there is a shift from using case numbers as the leading indicator. However, testing will still continue in medical settings and other surveillance mechanisms are still ongoing to complement testing.

**Letter from the Minister of Health and Minister of Justice Re:**

**Bill 70:** The ACCA received response from the Honourable Minister of Health Tyler Shandro, and Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General on August 3 thanking the association for having expressed our support, along with ASCHA, CHAA, and SHSA, of [Bill 70: The COVID-19 Related Measures Act](#). "The Government of Alberta recognizes the immense challenges that providers have faced in navigating this pandemic and we believe it is important to protect those who have followed public health orders and guidelines." The ACCA thanks the membership for your advocacy engagement efforts these past months in support of this important legislation.

## Member Value and Engagement

### **ACCA 2021 Annual General Meeting and Corporate Membership Appreciation Reception**

Please save the date and join the ACCA and your fellow members for a return to in-person gettogethers with our Annual General Meeting being held at the Edmonton Renaissance Airport Hotel on **November 10, 2021 at 12:00pm**. Following the AGM, we invite you to stay for our reception graciously sponsored by [CareRx](#), recognizing the tremendous support of our corporate members without whom we would not be the recognized voice of Continuing Care in Alberta.

More details to follow!

**Patient Concerns and Suggested Activities:** In July of 2020, the Minister of Health requested the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing health system complaints management processes based on comments and feedback received by the Government from Albertans. HQCA provided the Minister with a final report in February, 2021. Although HQCA engaged with many health system partners, the report's recommendations were not validated by contributing organizations. As such, HQCA will be contacting contributors to share more information on this upcoming opportunity. If your organization is contacted, the Ministry asks that you please participate as your contributions can help shape final recommendations that will better serve our health system.

Here are the [Guiding Principles](#) and [Suggested Activities](#) developed by HQCA for your reference. Your organization may already be applying many of these guiding principles and/or

[this survey](#) by **August 6**.

The draft manual is [available for reference here](#).

Updates to the manual include considerations for applicability to LTC settings where appropriate structure and process is in place to safely allow this; acknowledging other unregulated health care providers (e.g. therapy aides) who may be assigned medication assistance; education recommendations for unregulated and regulated health care providers involved in MAP, among other updates.

Contact [michele.stanley@ahs.ca](mailto:michele.stanley@ahs.ca) with questions or concerns.

### **Careers!**

Vermilion & District Housing Foundation is seeking a Chief Administrative Officer to work closely with their Financial Officer and Board of Directors. Please [click here](#) for complete details of this opportunity!

### **Critical Worker Benefit Application**

Please note that the deadline for private sector employers to submit applications has been extended to August 31.

Private sector employers can apply on behalf of employees at [alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx](http://alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx) and applications will be assessed in the order in which they are received.

### **Contact Us!**

Please share your comments and concerns

suggested activities. Please take the time to review them and determine if further improvements are possible. Thank you for your continued cooperation and collaboration as we, associations, operators and the government, seek to improve the existing patient complaints management processes in the province.

with us at anytime. Don't forget to Like and Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram!](#)

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