

The Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA) is the recognized voice of Continuing Care (CC) in Alberta representing a unified and diverse membership who champion for quality of life, quality of care, and enhanced wellness for all Albertans requiring continuing care. This is Our Mission!

Regardless of geography or socio-economics, CC is a vital topic that touches every Albertan family in an intimate way. Our population is aging, and in fact it is super-aging with more seniors living 80+ years than ever before. Their health and safety needs are becoming increasingly complex and our province's cultural diversity continues to evolve. Compounded with aging infrastructure and decades-old legislation, to provide the very best person-centred care in which we are sensitive to everyone's unique needs and preferences, working in collaboration as a trusted partner with government is more crucial than ever.



Embracing an Aging Population in Alberta

- 550,000 Seniors (2017)
- By 2035, **1,130,000 +** Seniors
- **2 in 3** people know someone with dementia
- Highest rate of dementia in Canada
- Earliest onset of dementia in Canada
- Needs becoming increasingly complex

The demand for CC will only continue to grow and grow. As Albertans increasingly want to age in place with the support of their communities, government needs to ensure funding is appropriately directed to ensure care at home or in home-like settings is received when and where Albertans need it. In these tough economic times, having strong partners that are empowered to help build the spaces, while contributing innovation and efficiencies, to keep pace with this demand is crucial and simply makes good business sense. Solutions on how CC funding can reach the front lines and have the greatest impact is also crucial.

ACCA presented the 4 main political parties (NDP, UCP, AP, Lib) with an outline of the challenges facing the CC industry, and recommendations on how, together, with the knowledge and support of our experienced and passionate membership, we can create the best sustainable CC industry possible.

We present below a high-level summary of the results of the survey so that voters know the parties' policy intentions in this crucial 2019 provincial election.

If Elected...	Party Responses			
Question	New Democratic Party	United Conservative Party	Alberta Party	Liberal Party
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 operators?	<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>It is irresponsible to let ideology get in the way of delivering the care seniors need at a price taxpayers can afford – particularly given the demographic shift coming. UCP would reintroduce the ASLI program, which relied upon a variety of providers and succeeded in building the vast majority of affordable and accessible spaces in recent years.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The AP recognizes that solutions to help address the growing demand for seniors housing are not the monopoly of government and its supporting agencies. Alberta has had decades of success in quality health care provided by non-profit, faith based and independent operators. An Alberta Party-led government would focus on a balanced approach between government operated and these providers. To support this vision it would reinstitute a modernized program similar to what Alberta had previously. The AP is not bound by partisan dogma, instead by a genuine desire to assist families in meeting their housing solutions.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>no further comments provided to any of the responses</p>

<p>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?</p>	<p>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 CC. If re-elected we are open to discussing the issue of appropriate rates with providers, families CC workers.</p>	<p>If elected, we look forward to discussing a funding model with ACCA members.</p>	<p>The issue of accessible housing is an emotional one for families and service providers who both struggle daily with rising costs and fixed income. An AP led government recognizes that the current business model affects both the care and sustainability of our province's current inventory.</p> <p>The Ministry of Seniors in an AP-led government take a two-pronged approach. First it would request that the Auditor General of Alberta conduct a review of Alberta's current system and identify issues and opportunities. Second, the ministry would be tasked with developing a more sustainable model in consultation with families, stakeholders and service providers.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Will you allow a broader program of Home Care and empower CC providers in good standing to offer Home Care in their regions, as well as in their own facilities?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p>

<p>Will you work with ACCA members to streamline regulatory, reporting, audits, capital planning and decision making for CC operators and CC residents and clients?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>A UCP government will streamline and modernize operations and cut red tape by 1/3 across the board. We believe there are a number of opportunities in CC to help the system focus precious time and resources on front line services.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The Ministry of Seniors within an Alberta Party-led government would take the lead in resolving these issues and providing one gateway for families and CC operators.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Will you establish a comprehensive funding mechanism centred in a Ministry that ensures transparency in CC 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 CC residents and clients are indeed passed through to support programs for those Albertans?</p>	<p>We understand that all too often, CC can take a backseat to other demands within the health care system. However, since 2015 we have made significant improvements to CC, 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 CC funding with you.</p>	<p>We would certainly be open to exploring these details further, but cannot commit to a specific funding model at this time. The lack of transparency of costs and parity of funding for different providers are things we can work with ACCA on as part of the overall AHS review we have committed to as part of the platform.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The Alberta Party's Shadow Budgets have identified our observation that system of continuing care has duplication and likely a cost imbalance. Ultimately, cost imbalances result in unfair standards of care as they mean that funding is redirected to support a limited pool of residents, as opposed to a consistent level of care across the system. To provide better transparency and assist in developing better solutions, the Ministry of Seniors would request that the Auditor General of Alberta conduct an audit of the current state of Alberta's Continuing Care model, including identification of opportunities to improve the current system.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Will you delegate a Ministry to be directly responsible for the oversight, decision</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health is ultimately responsible for the funding and oversight related to the CC program in Alberta.</p>	<p>We would certainly be open to exploring this idea further, as clear governance is important for improving</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Yes, the Alberta Party has announced this as part of the election platform.</p>	<p>YES</p>

making, regulating and funding to all CC providers (AHS, non-profit, faith based and independent)?		outcomes. Until the AHS review is done, however, we cannot commit to a specific governance and funding model at this time.	Albertaparty.ca/seniors	
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.	YES We have committed in our platform to returning to the ASLI model as well as alternative financing options, P3's, and also to permit more creative affordable housing options . These will all have significant impact to add quality, affordable housing and empower communities and providers.	YES The Alberta Party has committed to introducing a modernized program as part of its 2019 Election Platform. Government does not have a monopoly on good ideas and services and the model currently in favour with the existing government is not meeting the growing demand of this province.	YES
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.	YES A United Conservative government will reduce the regulatory burden by 1/3, and modernizing outdated legislation will be key to achieving this.	YES Yes, Alberta's Ministry of Seniors will be tasked with an administrative review and update of existing legislation.	YES

ACCA thanks the parties' for their participation in this survey. Collaborative and productive relations with our government leaders has been, and will continue to be, a cornerstone of the ACCA as we champion for quality of care, quality of life, and enhanced wellness for all Albertans!