



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER: Homes Not Hospitals Campaign

Seniors Belong in Homes, Not Hospitals

Executive Summary

The wait list for long-term care in British Columbia has tripled in the past six years. More than 7,000 seniors are currently waiting for placement, many of them occupying hospital beds because there is nowhere appropriate for them to go.

Long-term care placement can now take close to one year. Home care remains out of reach for many families, and retirement living communities face growing regulatory and financial pressures.

Without action, the situation will continue to worsen. Provincial projections show B.C. will need more than 20,000 new long-term care beds by 2035. Yet the province is on track to build 2,000 new and replacement beds, and has delivered 800 beds since 2020.

This election, British Columbians should ask their local candidates a simple question:

What's your plan for seniors' care?

BC Care Providers Association has a plan.

Five Priorities. One Plan. Zero Excuses.

Why Homes Not Hospitals?

Many seniors remain in hospital because there is no appropriate retirement living, long-term care, assisted living, or home care available to them.

This is bad for seniors, bad for families, and bad for the healthcare system.

When seniors occupy hospital beds unnecessarily:

- Emergency department wait times increase.
- Scheduled surgeries and procedures face delays.
- Costs rise dramatically.
- Seniors receive care in settings that are not designed for long-term living.

Metrotower 1 | 1424-4710 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4M2

www.bccare.ca | 604.736.4233



Key Facts

- A hospital bed costs approximately \$1,200 per day.
- A long-term care bed costs approximately \$294 per day.
- More than 7,000 seniors are currently waiting for long-term care in British Columbia.

Government's own projections indicate B.C. will require more than 20,000 additional long-term care beds by 2035. However, current construction plans fall far short of this target creating a growing gap between need and available capacity.

BCCPA's 5-Point Plan

Five Priorities. One Plan. Zero Excuses.

Non-government providers deliver approximately two-thirds of British Columbia's long-term care services and 90 per cent of assisted living.

We are ready to help solve the seniors' care crisis. Here's how.

Priority 1: Build More Capacity Now

Commit to a multi-year capital plan to build new long-term care and assisted living spaces while renewing aging facilities.

Non-government providers can often build new care homes faster and more cost effectively than government-led projects, with construction costs averaging approximately \$800,000 per bed compared to public projects costing \$1.2 million or more per bed.

Priority 2: Fund the True Cost of Care

Fund long-term care and assisted living based on the actual cost of delivering care.

Current funding rates vary significantly across the province, and more than \$250 million has been withdrawn from the sector in less than two years.

Providers need predictable, sustainable funding that reflects labour, operational, and care delivery costs.



Priority 3: Strengthen the Workforce

Create a dedicated seniors' care workforce strategy that supports recruitment, training, retention, and career development.

Staffing vacancies have increased by 42 per cent between 2019 and 2024.

Residents currently receive an average of 3.36 direct care hours per day, below the national standard of 4.1 hours.

Priority 4: Aging in the Right Place Tax Credit

Introduce a tax credit to support families paying for home health and retirement living services.

An Aging in the Right Place Tax Credit could save approximately \$340 million annually while providing cost savings for seniors and helping prevent roughly 10 per cent of new long-term care admissions.

Priority 5: Fair Rules for Retirement Living

Modernize the Residential Tenancy Act to recognize the unique operating realities of retirement living communities.

Meals, recreation programs, housekeeping, wellness programs, and other hospitality services do not increase at the same rate as rent and should not be governed by rental regulations designed for conventional housing.

Balanced rules will protect residents while ensuring retirement living remains financially sustainable and available to future generations of seniors.

Election Call-to-Action

This election represents a critical opportunity to address the growing seniors' care crisis.

Why Act Now?

- Budget 2026 cancelled seven long-term care projects, putting approximately 1,200 beds at risk.



- Whoever forms the next government will determine whether B.C. builds the care capacity seniors need.
- Candidates are making commitments now, making this the most important time for voters to make their voices heard.

British Columbians should ask every candidate:

Will you support BCCPA's Five-Point Plan to ensure seniors get the right care, in the right place, at the right time?

About BCCPA

Established in 1977, BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) is the leading voice for B.C.'s seniors living, wellness and care sector. Our growing membership base includes nearly 600 long-term care, assisted living, independent living, home health, associate, and commercial members across British Columbia.

Media Contact

Jamie Lozano

Manager, Communications

BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA)

Phone: w 604-736-4233 ext 236

Email: jamie@bccare.ca

Website: www.bccare.ca

Campaign: www.homesnothospitals.ca

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