

2017-04 (October 19, 2017)

SENIORS' HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS application of the current Canada Health Act cannot sustain the oncoming wave of seniors and their healthcare needs and federal oversight is failing vulnerable citizens;

WHEREAS Canada's Universal Healthcare in provinces, territories and municipalities is increasingly under pressure to cut services and allow intrusion and encroachment by "for-profit" health care providers;

WHEREAS delivery of long-term care, homecare, and mental health services particularly for dementia (such as Alzheimer's), and comprehensive pharmaceutical and wellness program delivery is neither universal nor consistent in quality and support across the country;

WHEREAS an estimated 56,000 Canadians with dementia receive care in hospital due to a shortage of beds in appropriate facilities;

WHEREAS communication disconnect between patients' doctors, nurses and caregivers when it comes to discharging seniors from the hospital, particularly during the night, often puts vulnerable seniors in personal jeopardy;

WHEREAS proven successful healthcare models exist in some Canadian cooperatives and in some advanced European nations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party urge the Government of Canada to create companion legislation to the Canada Health Act to ensure:

- universality, accountability, outcome measurability and full public funding for national programs for long-term care, homecare and mental health services particularly for dementia, and the delivery of comprehensive wellness programs;
- simple understandable communication procedures be established to improve communications between doctors, nurses, seniors and caregivers;
- emphasis be given to innovation in the delivery of healthcare programs and services;
- ensure enforcement of regulations to secure compliant participation in a full cost accounting process by the provinces, territories and municipalities;

(254 words)

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Reference: [SLC Alberta Policy Paper "Health"](#) September 2017