



NEWS RELEASE

NON-PROFIT NURSING HOMES CALL FOR FUNDING INCREASE, HIGHER STAFFING

Winnipeg, July 6, 2020 -- As the COVID-19 pandemic shines a light on long-term care facilities in Canada, the owners of 29 of Manitoba's private, non-profit personal care homes are calling for immediate funding and staffing increases to help improve resident care.

The Manitoba Association of Residential and Continuing Care Homes for the Elderly (MARCHE) says personal care homes in Manitoba have been chronically underfunded for years and resident care is suffering as a result.

"Lack of funding, human resource challenges and aging infrastructure are issues not just in Ontario and Quebec," says MARCHE Executive Director Julie Turenne-Maynard. "Many personal care homes—including all of those in Winnipeg—have not seen any funding increase for basic operations in more than 10 years. During that same time, dietary expenses at MARCHE homes increased by 36% and the cost of incontinent supplies increased 50%. Funding of these items had to come at the expense of other departments."

MARCHE says money for repairs, renovations and replacement of critical infrastructure is also insufficient. Many homes are over 40 years old and have multiple beds per room, thus facilitating the spread of infectious diseases. In the non-profit sector, homes need an average \$6 million in upgrades per home. Yet a recent 25-year period saw little to no increase in provincial funding, while inflation over those years was 57%.

"At minimum, all personal care homes must receive operating budgets that reflect the annual cost of inflation, the increased needs of residents, and basic upkeep of their capital infrastructure," Turenne-Maynard says.

MARCHE is also calling on the provincial government to fund higher staffing levels in order to provide the care residents require. The average resident in a Manitoba personal care home is more than 85 years old and has acute and complex healthcare challenges, including dementia. Although resident needs have increased, staffing levels have remained the same since 2009. MARCHE is calling on the provincial government to increase the hours of care from 3.6 hours per resident per day to a minimum 4.1 hours.

"The critical issues facing personal care homes are not new, and we have been raising them with government for a decade," Turenne-Maynard points out. "Faith-based and community-supported organizations have been providing services to elderly Manitobans for over 100 years

and have a wealth of experience. We can be an effective partner to government in jointly finding solutions to the long-term problems of under-funding, inadequate staffing, and unsuitable policies and regulations.”

More than 80% of COVID-19 deaths in Canada have been linked to long-term care facilities. Manitoba has had seven deaths in total, with one related to a personal care home.

“While we have been successful so far, we cannot be complacent about COVID-19,” says Turenne-Maynard. “We know that having to provide increasingly complex care without adequate funding leaves personal care home residents and staff vulnerable—now more so than ever before.”

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For more information or to arrange an interview with a MARCHE personal care home:
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204-771-5585

Backgrounder:
[MARCHE REPORT November 2019.pdf](#)

List of MARCHE facilities is attached.

MARCHE Personal Care Homes

(MARCHE facilities house 2,850 residents—29% of the Manitobans in long term care.)

Actionmarguerite (PCHs in St. Boniface, St. Vital, North End)

Bethania Mennonite Personal Care Home

Calvary Place Personal Care Home

Convalescent Home of Winnipeg

Dinsdale Personal Care Home (Brandon)

Donwood Manor Personal Care Home

Fred Douglas Lodge Personal Care Home

Golden Links Lodge

Rest Haven Nursing Home (Steinbach)

Holy Family Home

Lions Personal Care Centre

Luther Home

Meadowood Manor

Misericordia Health Centre

Misericordia Place Personal Care Home

Park Manor Care

Pembina Place Mennonite Personal Care Home

Prairie View Lodge Personal Care Home (Pilot Mound)

Rock Lake Personal Care Home (Rock Lake)

Salem Home (Winkler)

Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre

Ste. Rose Hospital and Personal Care Home

The Salvation Army Golden West Centennial Lodge

Tabor Home (Morden)

Villa Youville (Sainte-Anne)

West Park Manor Personal Care Home

Winnipegosis & District Health Centre