



## **ALBERTA SENIORS UNITED NOW**

**The Voice for Seniors in Alberta**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Edmonton, Alberta:**

**John MacDonald,  
Executive Director – SUN**

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## **PROFIT NEED NOT TRUMP PEOPLE!**

Does profit trump people? When a private, for-profit facility severs its contract with Alberta Health Services (AHS), seniors are displaced, or put bluntly, evicted. The recent announcement by Red Deer's Symphony Senior Living Aspen Ridge to sever its contract with AHS is another case in what appears to be an emerging trend towards disregard for seniors who financially depend on aid from AHS.

"We implore the government of Alberta to take action on this developing trend," says John MacDonald, Executive Director of Seniors United Now (SUN). "When AHS funding is no longer part of the equation, seniors get caught in the cross-fire. They get evicted. Not all seniors, and not always immediately, but evictions do definitely result. This is not acceptable; seniors become the casualties. Profit does not need to trump people!"

The Government of Alberta and private care facilities need to work together in the best interests of the seniors of this province. Alberta should be a place where seniors can choose to live in public or private facilities, and should not fear eviction. In working together and in negotiating terms, the guiding principle for the government and for private institutions must always be the physical and emotional well-being of the members of one of our province's most vulnerable citizen groups. "In negotiations between the government and private companies, the threat of eviction must be erased," says MacDonald. "Negotiations must focus on the needs of Alberta seniors: a) well-trained and competent staff who are fairly compensated, b) comfortable, safe and affordable lodgings, c) nutritious meals and d) appropriate and supportive intervention as necessary. The negotiations must incorporate fair and workable solutions for funding facilities and services."

Alberta seniors are looking to this government for strong and decisive leadership, leadership that places our seniors as a first priority. Today's government has indicated a commitment to ensuring quality of life for seniors. We believe in the integrity of this commitment and look forward to its execution. Anything less would be unacceptable.

Alberta Seniors United Now (SUN) is a non-profit, non-partisan, province-wide organization. Our vision is to be a leading resource and advocate on seniors' issues.

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For more information on Alberta Seniors United Now (SUN) visit: [www.seniorsunitednow.com](http://www.seniorsunitednow.com)