

Alberta Seniors United Now

The Voice for Seniors in Alberta

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Dear:

Alberta Seniors United Now (SUN), a non-profit, non-partisan organization that advocates on behalf of seniors is gravely concerned regarding the announcement by Mr. VanderBurg, Minister of Seniors that only 30 long-term care beds will be added to the existing total of long-term care beds in Alberta. This scant amount of increased beds does not begin to meet the existing need for expansion of beds to meet demand. Seniors waiting in active treatment hospital beds far exceeds 30 seniors. The Edmonton Journal article lists the number of people in Edmonton (as of December 13, 2011) waiting in acute care or sub-acute care beds waiting for supportive living spaces as 187. This number is not consistent with the statistics provided in the recently released second quarter AHS performance report.

While SUN commends the decision to provide 511 additional supportive living spaces, this initiative does not address the urgent need for a significant planned expansion of long-term care beds in Alberta. The need is self evident and should not be ignored or avoided. Seniors will continue to be at risk in their homes or placed in inappropriate beds within the active treatment health delivery system. Also, the cost of warehousing seniors in active treatment beds is a significant waste of fixed health care dollars.

The membership of SUN strongly recommends that a two year plan be developed and implemented immediately to correct the inherent situation of a lack of long-term care beds in Alberta. Our objective is to ensure that all seniors in Alberta receive appropriate health care and health support services.

Sincerely,

Gordon Voth, President



United to Ensure Seniors can live in Dignity in the Province of Alberta