

For immediate release

Association calls on election candidates to outline their vision for the future of long-term care
Nursing homes to host community all-party events in communities across the province

Fredericton, NB (Tuesday, May 29, 2018) – Nursing homes across the province will kick-off Nursing Home Week by engaging political parties and local-area candidates in conversations about the investments and initiatives required to ensure their long-term sustainability.

New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes Executive Director Jodi Hall expanded on the priorities of its member nursing homes, including an overview on the work begin done on workforce recruitment and retention, as part of a presentation to the provincial roundtable on aging today.

“Nursing homes are at the heart of many of New Brunswick’s communities – serving as a social hub and community centre, and offering local employment and volunteer opportunities,” Hall says. “It is essential that we all work together to ensure our residents’ needs can be met in the future with an appropriate workforce, being delivered in local communities.”

The community events are being independently organized by community-based nursing homes who, together, make up the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes. Invitation letters will be sent in the coming days to political parties and nominated candidates. Events will focus on the sustainability of New Brunswick’s long-term care sector, outlining the following sector priorities:

- **Reinvestment:** The reinvestment of savings resulting from the adjusted skills mix into increasing the hours of care and the education and training for Resident Attendants, who’ve been identified as the primary care provider yet lack consistent training and skill.
- **Recruitment and retention:** Help with the recruitment and retention of professional nurses, a long-standing issue for nursing homes, which promises to be compounded with 1,000 new long-term care beds planned for NB.
- **Renovation and growth:** The Association is calling on government to include as part of its multi-year nursing home plan a ‘right of first refusal’ that gives existing non-profit nursing homes an option to renovate and rebuild before the existing beds go out to tender. This would allow these community-based homes the option to renew their own infrastructure.

“Our job today is the same as it was when we first opened our doors,” says Hall the New Brunswick. “We provide the best care and quality-of-life to our residents and seniors in the community.”

The New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes is made up of 68 long-term care facilities that are home to more than 4,700 seniors across the province.

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