

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***NBANH Response to "The Forgotten Generation" by NBNU***

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 –

Although this report is calling for reform in long term care, the report largely focuses on nursing homes. NBANH has some shared points of advocacy with this report, such as increases in the hours of care, initiatives for recruitment and retention, and agreement that resident care needs have increased over the past two decades. We support system improvement, but strongly believe that improvements must be driven by evidence.

In review of the book and its findings, there are a number of concerning conclusions reached that are based on information from other provinces, or the United States, mixed with sections of past reports to reach various conclusions about nursing homes in NB. Here are the facts:

- All nursing homes in NB are private corporations, not just one organization.
- Nursing homes in NB have the highest ratio of Registered Nurses in Canada.
- Wage scales in nursing homes have parity with the hospital sector.
- Nursing homes are highly regulated by government with regular inspections and acts of oversight by government.
- Nursing homes have participated in a multi-year initiative to introduce the most advanced resident assessment information system in Canada, with all data reportable to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). This work is now done, and the first data upload from all nursing homes in NB is currently at CIHI.
- Significant work has been done regarding recruitment and retention since the NBANH 2017 survey of recruitment needs in the nursing homes. NBANH has a full multi-year strategy for nursing home recruitment and works closely with government and labour on its implementation.

The report does not highlight the leadership role of the Registered Nurse in nursing homes, who's role is very important in the homes. Nursing homes in NB have not had COVID 19 outbreaks over the last eight months, and the clinical leadership from RNs has been an important factor in that.

Residents are central to all that homes do and all employees have given 100% to ensure residents are safe and well cared for. To suggest otherwise is simply unfair, especially when there is no evidence to suggest residents and staff are living and working in deeply troubling situations. It is unfortunate that the release of this report was done at a time when nursing home management and staff are doing extraordinary work in the midst of an unprecedented situation such as a pandemic. Everyone living and working in long term care should only be feeling support at this time.

We are not suggesting there isn't work to be done. There is, and we must always strive to continually improve, but residents are receiving safe care and homes are taking all steps they can to ensure they experience quality of life. Families that have concerns as a result of this report are encouraged to contact nursing home leadership, Social Development or NBANH to discuss further.

**Media inquiries:**

Jodi Hall

506.460-6262

[jhall@nbanh.com](mailto:jhall@nbanh.com)