

## Appendix A

### Data on Alternate Level of Care

Table 1: Distribution of ALC Days by Discharge Destination and Province, 2007-2008

	Total ALC Days (N)	Discharge Distribution (%)				
		Long-Term Care Facility	Home (With/Without Support)	Died	Rehab Facility	Other
B.C.	300,379	59	24	10	1	6
Alta.	169,132	64	14	9	4	10
Sask.	48,663	72	8	16	2	1
ON	853,316	57 <sup>1</sup>	17	13	10	3
N.B.	113,096	65	17	13	3	2
N.S.	150,533	66	11	15	2	7
PEI	8,955	76	9	12	0	4
N.L.	57,714	49	28	15	6	2
Canada	<b>1,701,788</b>					

<sup>1</sup> 17% of Ontario ALC Days were for patients who were discharged to complex continuing care; 40% were for patients discharged to other long-term care facilities

**Table 2: Scope of Alternate Level of Care by Province, 2007–2008<sup>2</sup>**

	% of Hospitalizations that were ALC Related	Number of hospital bed-equivalents used for ALC <sup>3</sup>
<i>Canada</i>	5	5,180
B.C.	5	910
Alta.	3	520
Sask.	2	150
Man	N/A	N/A
ON	7	2,590
QC	N/A	N/A
N.B.	5	340
N.S.	3	460
PEI	2	30
N.L.	7	180

Source: CIHI, *Alternative Level of Care in Canada*, 2009<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Source: CIHI, *Alternative Level of Care in Canada*, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Assuming 90% occupancy, rounded to the nearest 10 beds

<sup>4</sup> Source: CIHI, *Alternative Level of Care in Canada*, 2009

**Table 3: Percent of ALC Hospitalizations that Were Readmitted to Hospital within 30 Days of Discharge to Home<sup>5</sup>**

	Readmitted to Hospital Within 30 Days of Discharge Home
B.C.	17
Alta.	14
Sask.	18
ON	17
N.B.	18
N.S.	15
PEI	26
N.L.	15

Notes:

- All figures presented were compiled between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008 (latest CIHI data available)
- Information for Quebec was not available
- In Manitoba, rehabilitation facilities only began to be coded as Alternate Level of Care (ALC) in 2006 – 2007, and is therefore inconsistent to use as a comparison<sup>6</sup>
- There were a total of 1.7 Million ALC days in Canada in 2007-2008

<sup>5</sup> Source: CIHI, *Alternative Level of Care in Canada*, 2009

<sup>6</sup> Source: CIHI, *Alternative Level of Care in Canada*, 2009 page 2

## Appendix B

### Pan-Canadian wait times to access long-term care

Province	Waiting Period	Dates Covered	Notes	Source
BC	19-83 days*	2011/12	<b>Average</b> time in days after approval for services and client acceptance. Represents combined figures from clients waiting in the community and hospital settings. Range is due to longer waits in rural, northern and small health authorities. *Range only is given as data from some health authorities are missing for this time period.	Planning and Innovation Division, BC Ministry of Health.
	41 days (range 29-89)	2009/10		
	8-55 days*	2011/12	<b>Median</b> time in days after approval for services and client acceptance. Represents combined figures from clients waiting in the community and hospital settings. Range is due to longer waits in rural, northern and small health authorities. *Range only is given as data from some health authorities are missing for this time period.	Planning and Innovation Division, BC Ministry of Health.
	20 days (range 8-64)	2009/10		
AB	A direct measure of wait time was unavailable for Alberta and is therefore not reported here. However two indirect measures are presented to give an idea of the provincial situation.			
	1,002 people	April 2011-	<b>People</b> waiting the community for continuing care	Alberta Health Services Q4 Performance

Province	Waiting Period	Dates Covered	Notes	Source
		March 2012	placement. Number is the figure on the last day of the reporting period. Target for the year: 900	Report, 2011/12: <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp</a>
	1,115 people	April 2010-March 2011	Target for the year: 975	Alberta Health Services Q4 Performance Report, 2010/11: <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp</a>
	1,233 people	2009/10	No target is given for the year.	Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan. <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf">http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf</a>
	69 %	April-Sept 2012	<b>Percentage</b> of patients placed in continuing care within 30 days of being assessed. No target is given for the year.	Alberta Health Services Q2 Performance Report, 2012/13: <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp</a>
	64 %	April 2011-March 2012	No target is given for the year.	Alberta Health Services Q4 Performance Report, 2011/12: <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp</a>
SK	34 days	Sept 2012	The <b>average</b> time in days of post-assessment wait from combined community and hospital settings. Numbers are reported regionally and then averaged.	Continuing Care and Rehabilitation, Community Care Branch, Government of Saskatchewan.
	48 days	March 2012		
	43 days	Sept 2011		
MB	67 days	2009/10-2010/11	<b>Median</b> time in days waiting for admission to a Personal Care Home, after assessment. Clients aged 75 years and older only.	Manitoba Health, Annual Statistics, 2010/11: <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/annstats/as1011.pdf">http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/annstats/as1011.pdf</a>
ON	113 days	2011	<b>Median</b> number of days from first application to placement.	Health Quality Ontario online public reporting system: <a href="http://www.hqontario.ca/public-reporting/long-term-care">http://www.hqontario.ca/public-reporting/long-term-care</a>

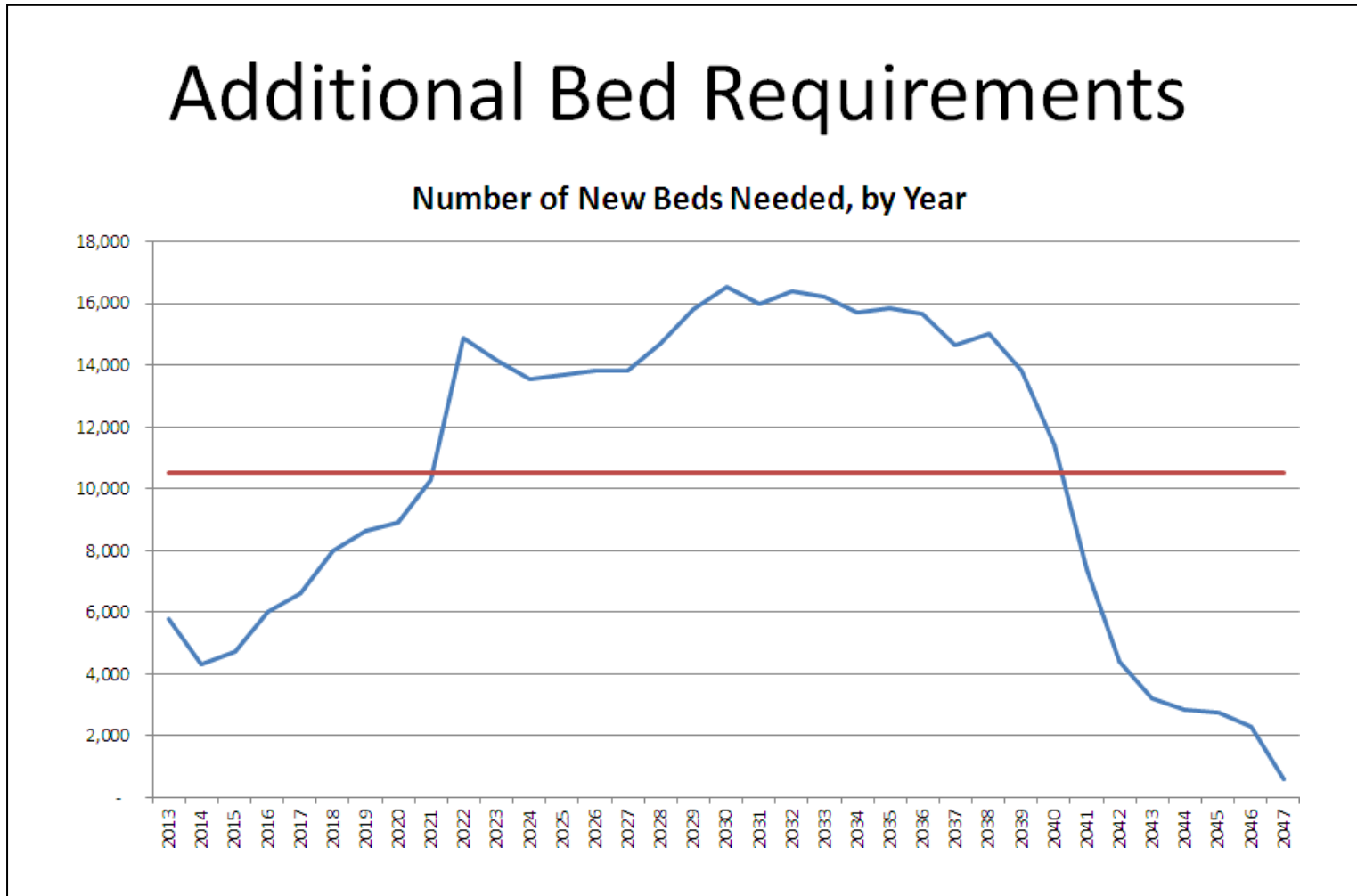
Province	Waiting Period	Dates		Notes	Source
		Waiting Period	Covered		
QC	112 days	2010			
	13 months (Quebec City)	2012		The wait times for a place in a centre for long term care varies from 5 to 49 months, whereas the average wait time is 13 months.	Rapport du Vérificateur général du Québec à l'Assemblée nationale pour l'année 2012-2013
	7 months (Montreal)			Average wait time in Montreal	
NB	121 days	2011/12		The <b>average</b> number of days from Nursing Home Approval to Admission to a Nursing Home for the fiscal year 2011/2012	Adults with Disabilities and Seniors Services, Government of New Brunswick.
PEI	91 days	2012		The <b>average</b> number of days waited for a placement in a LTC facility. Provincial average is derived from average of total days waited for placement by region.	Trends, projections and recommended approaches to delivery of long-term care in the Province of PEI, 2007 – 2017 <a href="http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/doh_ascentsum.pdf">http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/doh_ascentsum.pdf</a>
	63 days	2007			Backgrounder: Long term care <a href="http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hw_spechback5.pdf">http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hw_spechback5.pdf</a>
	41 days	2006			
	32 days	2005			
	30 days	2004			
	39 days	2003			
	36 days	2002			
	36 days	2001			
41 days	2000				
NS	150 days	2010/11		The <b>average</b> wait times measured from the date the client assessment is completed until the date the client accepts the offer. These dates represent	Removing barriers in accessing long term care: <a href="http://www.scribd.com/doc/73365308/Long-term-care-in-Nova-Scotia">http://www.scribd.com/doc/73365308/Long-term-care-in-Nova-Scotia</a>

Province	Waiting Period	Dates Covered	Notes	Source
NL	110 days	2009/10	<p>the wait from the perspective of the client.</p> <p>There are no registries in the province to track this information</p> <p>Eastern Health, the largest health region in the province, places an average of 1000 individuals into LTC annually.</p> <p>In December 2012, there were a total of 282 clients approved and waitlisted for placement in long term care facilities across all four regions of NL. This number reflects 115 in Eastern; 110 in Central; 33 in Western and 24 in Labrador-Grenfell.</p>	<p>Eastern Health, Long Term Care Program Government of NL, Department of Health and Community Services</p>

Source: Conference Board of Canada

## Appendix C

### Overview of new long-term care bed requirements, 2013-2047



Source: Conference Board of Canada

## Appendix D

### Current and/or panned provincial capital investment in health infrastructure

Province	Spending	Key Projects
British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital spending in the health sector will total \$2.3 billion over the next three years (to 2014-2015)</li> <li>2012 Health Capital Budget is \$879M. Most of the projects will go to enhance acute care facilities. There are also some provisions to enhance continuum care capacity.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Fort St. John Hospital is a \$298 Million project, including a LTC component.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most projects planned are acute-care hospitals in the interior of the province</li> <li>Fort St. John Hospital &amp; Residential Care Facility is primarily an acute-care centre, though with a 123-bed residential care facility</li> </ul>
Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$48.2 Million given out to eight organizations impacting 500 assisted-living or long-term care spaces<sup>8</sup></li> <li>\$25 Million budgeted each year from 2013 –2015, \$75 Million total<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan</i> aims to add 5,300 continuing care spaces over five years (by 2015)<sup>10</sup>. By the end of 2012, Alberta Health Services had opened 2,461 beds (almost 50 per cent of the target)<sup>11</sup></li> <li>According to 2009 figures, there were 777 people in hospital beds on waiting list for LTC beds. The goal is 250 on waiting list by 2015<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Runs the <i>Affordable Supportive Living Initiative</i>, providing additional funding for building or renovating assisted-living facilities<sup>13</sup></li> <li>New continuing care centre in Lloydminster</li> <li>New community care centre in Fort McMurray</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2012/bfp/2012\\_Budget\\_Fiscal\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2012/bfp/2012_Budget_Fiscal_Plan.pdf) page 35

<sup>8</sup> <http://alberta.ca/acn/201112/317125707C17B-E333-B8B0-17B1EC881A4D77FF.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2012/fiscal-plan-capital-plan.pdf> page 46

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf> page 11 and later

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Publications/ahs-pub-pr-2012-12-performance-report.pdf>, page 63

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf> page 11 and later

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/supportive-living-initiative.html>



<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$42.7 Million allotted to seven long-term care facilities in 2012.</li> <li>• Under a new shared-ownership model, planned expenditure of \$142 Million over 3 years<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New facilities in Biggar, Kelvington, Kerrobert, Kipling, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, and Prince Albert<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Manitoba</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term care expenditure for 2011-2012 was \$23.4M<sup>16</sup></li> <li>• February 2011, Premier Selinger announced \$216 Million in funding over 10 years for long-term care facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacing a LTC facility in Lac Du Bonnett – net increase of 50 beds at a cost of \$32 Million<sup>17</sup></li> <li>• Expansion of Holy Family PHC in Winnipeg, including a 160-bed expansion for LTC at a cost of \$40 Million<sup>18</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Ontario</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.5 Billion outlined in the 2012-13 health care capital budget. \$4.8 Million is targeted for LTC facilities</li> <li>• An additional \$30 Million for “Community Health Programs” which can include mental health, substance abuse facilities, and LTC facilities<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• Infrastructure Ontario provides loans to LTC facilities to make capital investments, including the construction or renovation of facilities.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operates the <i>Healthy Homes Tax Credit</i>, if over 65, can get tax credit of up to \$10,000 (\$1,500 rebate maximum) if installing safety devices for seniors in their homes.</li> <li>• Since 2007, has provided \$149 Million in low-interest loans to LTC facilities &amp; hospices in 25 projects<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Quebec</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012/13 has a capital budget of \$2.3 Billion, of which \$639.1 Million is allocated to <i>all</i> health-related infrastructure<sup>22</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/Budget2012-13/CapitalBackgrounderFinance3.pdf> page 3

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/Budget2012-13/CapitalBackgrounderFinance3.pdf> page 3

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/ann/docs/1112.pdf> page 84

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.neha.mb.ca/NR2013July13.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/news/2011/110518.php>

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/estimates/2012-13/volume1/MOHLTC\\_754.html](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/estimates/2012-13/volume1/MOHLTC_754.html)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/What-We-Do/Loans/Non-profit-Long-term-Care-Homes/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Templates/Loan.aspx?id=2147489551>

<sup>22</sup> *Budget de dépenses 2012-13*, page 102

<b>New Brunswick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projected cost of \$329 Million over 5 years, average of \$65.8 Million per year specifically on LTC facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government did a demographic assessment and projected the regions facing a shortfall of number of LTC beds.</li> <li>Greatest need in Moncton, Saint John, &amp; Fredericton<sup>23</sup></li> <li>Plans to increase the number of LTC beds by 704 over the next 5 years. Some examples including Two 60-bed nursing homes in Moncton and a new 30-bed nursing home in Fredericton</li> </ul>
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned expenditure of \$19 Million in 2012/13, five-year total of \$36.7 Million by 2017<sup>24</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently opened two LTC facilities at a cost of \$10.4 Million each</li> <li>One under construction to be ready for occupancy in 2013</li> <li>Expansion of additional facility in 2013</li> </ul>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately \$101 Million in capital spending on health-care related infrastructure</li> <li>In the budget, no LTC projects are mentioned<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple acute-care facilities, no LTC facilities mentioned in capital budget</li> </ul>
<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2006 – 2012, investment of \$315 Million in LTC facilities<sup>26</sup></li> <li>Planned expenditure in 2012/13 of \$58 Million for all health-related capital spending<sup>27</sup></li> <li>Not broken down into LTC specifically</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

Source: Conference Board of Canada

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2012/03/15/nb-nursing-home-policy-1039.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/Capbudget-12-13.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.gov.ns.ca/treasuryboard/PDFs/jobsHere-Capital-Plan-Dec7.pdf> page 21

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/long\\_term\\_care/ltc\\_plan.pdf](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/long_term_care/ltc_plan.pdf) page 29

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2012/estimates/estimates2012.pdf> 16.10

## Appendix E

### Economic contribution resulting from capital investment in long-term care

Average Direct Contribution to GDP of Operating the New Facilities (at market prices), by Industry		
Industries:	Direct GDP (in 2013 \$ millions)	Number of Jobs
Government Residential Care Facilities	\$456.5	3,654
Private Residential Care Facilities	\$180.5	7,951
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$637.0</b>	<b>11,604</b>

Average Direct Contribution to GDP of Capital Investing in new Facilities (at market prices), by Industry		
Industries:	Direct GDP (in 2013 \$ millions)	Number of Jobs
Construction	\$1,163.6	13,402
Other	\$61.8	738
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,225.4</b>	<b>14,141</b>

#### Notes:

- The direct contribution to GDP: Generally speaking, the direct economic impact (or contribution) is the **value added** generated by the firms that are directly supplying a service. In this case, there are two distinct services: residential care services and construction.
- On the operations side, the Direct GDP is equal to the sum of:
  1. Wages and salaries and Labour Compensation of all workers in LTC facilities
  2. Profits or other surpluses
  3. Income of Self-employed workers
  4. Depreciation (Investment in maintenance of the facilities)
  5. Taxes (minus subsidies) on production and products and services of all new facilities.
- On the **investment** (construction) side, the same equation holds, but applies to the firms engaged in the construction of the facilities (i.e. the labour compensation of their employees, for example).
- When it comes to employment, the direct number of jobs is the number of jobs created in the industry (or firms) supplying the service. In this case, the number of people working in LTC facilities (for operations) or in construction ( for investment).

Average Total Economic Contribution of New Residential Care Facilities				
	Contribution to GDP (in \$2013 millions)	Share of Total GDP in 2013 (per cent)	Number of Jobs	Share of Total Employment in 2013 (per cent)
<b>Operations</b>	<b>\$772</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>13,272</b>	<b>0.07%</b>
Direct	\$637	0.03%	11,604	0.07%
Indirect	\$135	0.01%	1,667	0.01%
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$2,195</b>	<b>0.12%</b>	<b>24,256</b>	<b>0.14%</b>
Direct	\$1,225	0.07%	14,141	0.08%
Indirect	\$970	0.05%	10,115	0.06%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,968</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>37,528</b>	<b>0.21%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Conference Board of Canada

## Appendix F

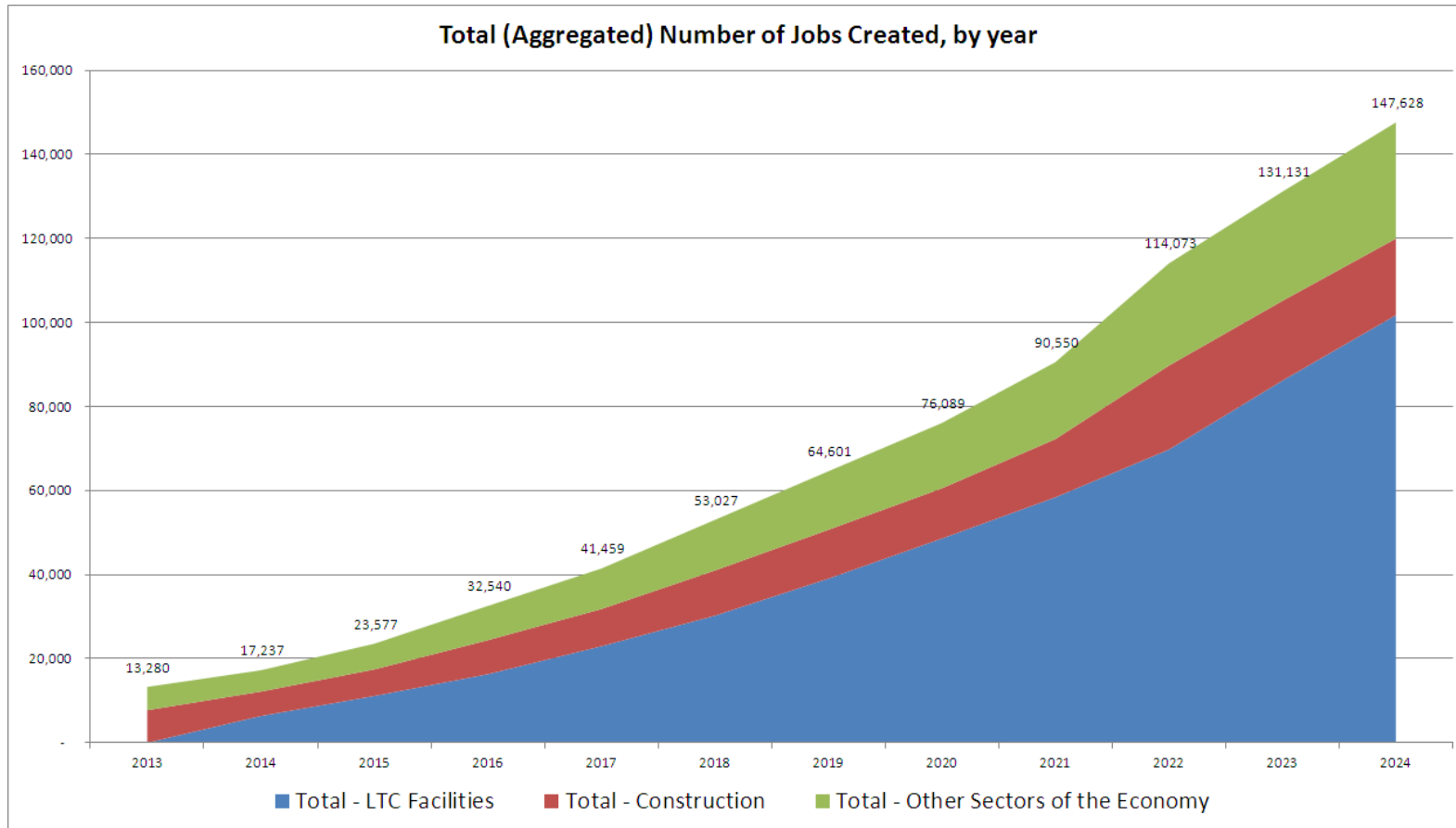
### Government revenues resulting from capital investment in long-term care

Average Government Revenues Induced by Spending - 2013 (in 2013 millions)	Operations	Investment	Total
<b>Total Federal</b>	<b>\$115.1</b>	<b>\$310.6</b>	<b>\$425.7</b>
Federal income tax	\$75.1	\$180.1	\$255.2
Federal corporate income tax	\$16.7	\$57.4	\$74.1
Federal trading profits on lottery and race tracks	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.2
Federal gas tax	\$2.4	\$9.1	\$11.4
Federal excise tax	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.3
Federal duty tax	\$2.1	\$4.8	\$7.0
Federal air tax	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$0.8
G.S.T	\$16.6	\$51.0	\$67.5
Import duties	\$1.9	\$7.2	\$9.1
<b>Total Provincial</b>	<b>\$90.5</b>	<b>\$280.4</b>	<b>\$370.9</b>
Provincial income tax	\$46.7	\$112.0	\$158.7
Provincial corporate income tax	\$11.2	\$38.5	\$49.7
Provincial environment tax	\$0.3	\$1.0	\$1.3
Provincial gallon tax	\$0.4	\$0.8	\$1.2
Provincial trading profits	\$6.6	\$14.9	\$21.5
Provincial gas tax	\$3.4	\$14.2	\$17.6
Provincial amusement tax	\$0.3	\$0.7	\$1.0
P.S.T/H.S.T.	\$21.6	\$98.2	\$119.8
<b>Total Municipal</b>	<b>\$0.1</b>	<b>\$0.2</b>	<b>\$0.2</b>
<b>Total Taxes Collected</b>	<b>\$205.7</b>	<b>\$591.1</b>	<b>\$796.8</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Conference Board of Canada

## Appendix G

### Aggregated employment resulting from capital investment in long-term care



Source: Statistic Canada, Conference Board of Canada

## Appendix H

### Sample of recent news articles on long-term care bed shortages

#### Affordable housing helps hospital

Orillia Today - Jan 24, 2013, Page:1

Frank Matys, Orillia Today

ORILLIA - City support for affordable housing serving seniors would help alleviate pressures brought on by a chronic bed shortage, Orillia's hospital says. "Working together, I think, is the only way we can attack any one of these problems that cross jurisdictional boundaries," said president and CEO Elisabeth Riley. At issue is the rising number of so-called 'alternate-level-of-care' patients, individuals who no longer require acute-care services provided by a hospital, but remain there due to a lack of home-support services or a shortage of spaces in long-term care facilities. The resulting bed shortage places additional pressure on the emergency department. "If you can't get patients out, you can't get patients in," Riley told council this week. Looking outside Orillia, Riley pointed to the example of McVittie Place, a Bracebridge complex for low-income seniors made possible through federal and provincial funding, as well as \$1million in municipal financial incentives. While stopping short of weighing in on a proposal by a local non-profit group to establish a housing complex for vulnerable seniors at the Hillcrest school site, Riley said a similar facility operated by the same group has borne results. "We know the Hillcrest Lodge project, which currently exists, is a help," she told Orillia Today. "They do take some of our patients after hospitalization. We know that they do provide affordable housing for people that are potentially vulnerable." The Hillcrest Villa proposal for the school site, "is something similar, and certainly makes sense, in terms of a model," she said. Proponents of Hillcrest Villa project continue to urge council to reconsider a decision to demolish the former school at a cost of \$400,000, arguing the building is ideal for seniors in need. The issue was the subject of a public information meeting Tuesday evening. "If it's not this (site), maybe it could be something else," said Riley. "That's the role of the city, that's not our role as the hospital to make those kinds of determinations." Monthly averages of ALC patients staying at the hospital ranged from 31 in July to 57 in December. The figures are considerably higher than in other communities within the region, with officials anticipating more than 30 per cent of beds will be occupied by these patients this year. By 2015, that figure is expected to approach 40 per cent, "based on the growth we are seeing in our seniors' population," Riley said. Coun. Pete Bowen suggested proposed uses for the Mount Slaven school site - now owned by the city and on the market - be revised to include affordable housing projects. "Currently, the only criteria we were using to evaluate proposals was just the price that they were offering to pay," he said. "What I am looking for is the benefit to the community, so that could be an affordable housing proposal, it could be something that creates a whole lot of jobs. It's not just the price that we're looking at."

#### City explores future long-term care needs

Guelph Tribune - Jan 22, 2013, Page:0

By Jessica Lovell Guelph Tribune

The city is looking to its aging population to help come up with a plan for how it provides long-term care. "We know of course, through our Older Adult Strategy, that we are going to have more and more older adults," said general manager of community engagement Barb Powell. It is these older adults that are being taken into consideration under the city's long-term-care project exploring the municipality's options for meeting its legislative requirements to provide a long-term-care home. But any member of the public is being invited to take part in a forum on long-term-care home services taking place Jan. 29 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Seniors Community Centre. "Every municipality in Ontario has to have a long-term-care home," said Powell of the legislative requirement. Guelph's happens to be in Fergus. Powell couldn't say why, but explained that when the provincial legislation came into effect around 20 years ago, Guelph was in the minority among Ontario municipalities in that it was not maintaining its own long-term-care home. But the city had options. Under the legislation, it could either pay another existing non-profit provider to provide care, or jointly own and operate a home with another municipality. Guelph funds care

at Wellington Terrace, the long-term-care home owned and operated by Wellington County in Fergus. A change might be in the works, but it's still too early in the project to know what that change might look like. "We are just at the beginning stages of this," Powell said. The public forum is part of the early stages. Its goal is to find out what the public thinks the city's role should be in providing long-term care, she said. "We really want to hear from people what they value in long-term care," she said. The city has hired a consulting group that will also be drawing input from community partners, local health-care providers and service providers, as well as Wellington County and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. "It's a very complex and heavily regulated sector," said Powell. She noted that just because Guelph is mandated to provide long-term care doesn't necessarily mean Guelph residents will access that local care. When it's determined that a person needs the kind of around-the-clock care that a long-term-care home provides, it is the Community Care Access Centre that places that person in care. Only about 45 per cent of Guelph residents going into long-term care actually remain in Guelph, said Powell. She suggested the low number might be at least partly due to the fact that people ask to be placed in care nearer to their loved ones, many of whom may live in other cities or municipalities. But when it comes to the care that the city is funding, "there is a view that people want something to be here in the city," said Powell. Other feedback that might be expected at the forum could include discussion about providing care that allows residents to stay in their homes and remain independent longer, and the kind of long-term-care environment sometimes described as "a campus of care," said Powell. The latter would involve various care services, perhaps not all government funded, located in close proximity to one another, she explained. Those who are not able to attend the Jan. 29 public forum are invited to provide feedback through an online survey at [guelph.ca/longtermcare](http://guelph.ca/longtermcare). The survey will be available from Jan. 31 to Feb. 20. To register for the forum or to get a print copy of the survey, contact Beth Bergevin at 519-822-1260, ext. 2042. Feedback gathered from the forum and survey will be presented during a special city council workshop on Feb. 26.

### **Could health-care bubble burst?**

The Daily News (Truro) - Jan 18, 2013, Page:A6

It would seem very tempting to blame politicians of all stripes for the situation being faced in hospitals across the province with overcrowded medical units and patients being stuck in hospital beds when they belong in long-term care facilities.

**There aren't nearly enough long-term care beds in Nova Scotia and a bottleneck has been created, backing up emergency rooms and leaving sick people in hallways instead of hospital rooms.**

In recent months, Nova Scotia's three political parties have traded accusations as to who is responsible. The Conservatives said they had a plan to build more long-term care facilities but were stopped when the New Democrats came to power in 2009, saying the province's financial situation prevents it from creating more long-term care beds.

Instead, the New Democrats are advocating the use of home care to allow seniors and others needing extended care to remain in their homes and be cared for by family members with support from various agencies. It's an ambitious plan government feels will work if only the mindset of Nova Scotians could change from using hospitals as temporary stopping places on the way to a long-term care facility.

The baby boomer question is not a new one. In the 1960s and 1970s university professors were talking about the impact the aging baby boomer population would have on the health-care system.

At the time, some may have called it fear mongering, but as evidenced by today's packed emergency rooms and hospitals, it's quite evident that those 40- and 50-year-old predictions have come true.

You can understand government's position in not wanting to create more long-term care beds and open more buildings because the cost would be astronomical - something the province simply cannot afford.

Then again, throwing the burden at the children of seniors - and telling them they must shoulder the responsibility of caring for their aging parents at the same time they try to earn a living - places too many people in a situation they don't want to be in. The fact is, thanks to emerging and improving medical technology, people are living longer lives. This, combined with the bubble that is a huge baby boomer population, is stretching an already stretched health-care system closer to the breaking point.

This may be the great challenge of this generation.



## **Long-term care remains "top priority" in HBM**

Campbellford EMC - part of the Performance Group of Companies - Jan 10, 2013, Page:1

Bill Freeman

EMC News -Havelock -It might require a different strategy but getting a shovel in the ground for a long-term-care facility remains the number one priority for Havelock-Belmont-Methuen council.

"It is still our top priority," said Councillor Barry Pomeroy during council's first meeting of 2013.

"We may have to try some different avenues because what we've been trying is not working," Pomeroy said. "We've [council and staff] worked hard together but there has to be another way."

The township has had a plan on the books for nearly two years that would facilitate the building of a 128-bed nursing home on an 18-acre property off Old Norwood Road which has already been zoned for a seniors-related development that could also include a medical centre, assisted living units and geared-to-income seniors apartments. A day-care centre and other "integrated community opportunities" could be accommodated over time.

The municipality has been working closely with AON Incorporated on plans for the estimated \$13-to \$14-million 128-bed two-storey facility which AON would build and operate. Council wants the province to allocate new long-term-care beds or redirect those that were not picked up in a 1999 call so that the H-B-M project can start.

It's a message they've steadily and consistently delivered to the provincial government for the past two years. The lack of positive news has been a frustration to council and staff but optimism has not been drained away.

"Your comments are bang on," Mayor Ron Gerow said. "Yes, we've gone down a number of avenues in the last two years."

"The need has gotten greater," Gerow said citing a recent provincial auditor's report that highlighted the significant number of seniors in need of alternative levels of care who remain in hospital beds rather than finding appropriate places in long-term-care facilities.

That reality, says Gerow is "causing hardship for them, their families and others."

Peterborough County has the oldest population in Ontario with a lengthy list of seniors (nearly 900) waiting for long-term-care beds. On any given day there are 130-150 in Peterborough Regional Health Care Centre waiting for LTC beds.

"It is time to knock on some other doors to up the ante," says Gerow.

"We've all been very dedicated to this project but I still feel very positive about it. I still feel it will happen but we may have to make some other tool boxes and [use] some other tools to make it happen."

What is planned in HBM is "part and parcel" of the government's "aging at home strategy," says Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal. Leal has been a strong advocate for the HBM project.

"We want to identify the exact need [of] long-term-care beds and look at other ways to provide services to seniors in their homes which is always the first choice," Leal said in an earlier interview at the reopening of the HBM medical centre.

## **Wealthy may pay home care costs; Recommendation made to reduce Ontario's bill for seniors' Health care**

Waterloo Region Record - Jan 09, 2013, Page:A3

Richard J. Brennan

Wealthier Ontario seniors may be tapped to pay some of the cost of publicly provided home care, Health Minister Deb Matthews said Tuesday.

The idea was one of 169 recommendations contained in a report, ([www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)) Living Longer, Living Well END presented to Matthews. It is designed in part to reduce the skyrocketing Health Care costs for seniors, who account for about 50 per cent of what the province spends on Health care.

The 198-page report by Dr. Samir Sinha, director of geriatrics at Mount Sinai and the University Health Network Hospitals, recommended the Health Ministry explore an income-based system for home care and community support services.

"I think it is time for us to have that conversation. We have moved to that on drugs, for example, in the last budget," Matthews said, adding later that "nobody got too excited about it because they know we have got to do things a bit differently."

Starting in ([www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)) August 2014 END, for seniors 65 years and older with an income of more than \$100,000, the deductible for drugs is \$100 plus three per cent of net income over \$100,000, while for senior couples with a combined income of more than \$160,000, the deductible is \$200 plus three per cent of their family net income over \$160,000.

Matthews told the Star, for example, there already is a user fee for Meals on Wheels. "We are not the first province to think about it. In fact, we are one of the last provinces to think about it. It's a recommendation and I think it's one that merits some thinking. But the bottom line is it would only apply to people who had the means to afford it," she said.

The Sinha report was commissioned as part of the province's ([www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)) Seniors Strategy END announced a year ago.

MPP France Gelinis, the NDP's Health critic, said the user fee recommendation will raise a red flag because "we see that as a barrier to access."

Matthews said of the many recommendations, the province is keenest on matching every senior with a primary care provider, be it a doctor or nurse practitioner who see that they get the continuum of care they need.

"The question is how can we afford not to do it because it actually costs the system a lot more when people aren't attached to primary care providers," she said.

Sinha told a news conference the older population in Ontario is going to double in the next 20 years, "and currently they account for 50 per cent of our Health Care spending. If we do nothing different ... then we are going to be in trouble."

He said, for example, "we need to triple the number of long-term care beds in our province" over the next 20 years, while emphasizing the need to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible through improved home care and wellness programs.

Susan Eng, of the senior advocacy group CARP, said all the recommendations hold promise and called on the province to get busy implementing them.

"The single greatest concern for our members has been Health Care and access to Health care," Eng, vice-president of advocacy for CARP.

### **Bed shortage A Big Health issue; Hospitals Acute care beds still filled by patients waiting for nursing homes**

New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal - Dec 31, 2012, Page:A1

ADAM BOWIE THE dAILY gLEANER

FREDERICTON - Concerns about the challenges alternative-level-of-care patients create for the provincial Health system made headlines throughout 2012, as people studied their current impact and tried to forecast data about the future.

As New Brunswickers age, they often require increased levels of care. Sometimes home-care services are all that is required.

But if the person is battling the onset of dementia, or contending with multiple or serious chronic Health conditions or diseases, they may require a higher standard of care.

Many patients receive the care they need at their local hospital as they wait for placement in a long-term care facility, staying for months, even years, before they're assessed and accepted at a nursing home.

With New Brunswick's aging population, high rates of chronic illness and serious fiscal challenges, it's the kind of issue that could create a perfect storm for the provincial health-care system in the coming years, especially if strategies aren't created and implemented now to help find efficiencies and improved service-delivery models.

Last January The Daily Gleaner reported that three of every 10 hospital beds at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital were occupied by alternative-level-of-care patients - patients who would be more appropriately cared for in nursing home facilities.

At the time, Dr. Tom Barry, the Horizon Health Network's chief of staff and a longtime Fredericton family physician, said spacing concerns had eased slightly in some health-care facilities, but were still creating bed crunches in other zones.

"In Moncton and Saint John, the percentages of ALC patients have dropped down (to about) 25 per cent. Fredericton, Miramichi and Upper River Valley are still struggling (at a rate of) anywhere between 30 and 33 per cent (bed occupancy rates)," he said.

The number of hospital beds occupied by ALC patients in Fredericton hovered at about the same proportions in May 2012.

But the numbers were slightly higher at the Oromocto Public Hospital, where four of every 10 acute-care beds were occupied by people who would be better served in a long-term care facility or a specialized home-care setting.

Back then, these figures were higher than the Horizon Health Network's organizational average. Statistics showed that about 23 per cent of the regional Health authority's beds were being used to care for ALC patients.

Nicole Tupper, executive director of the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital and the Oromocto Public Hospital, told the newspaper this past spring that facilities across the province, and across Canada, are struggling with spacing issues that have grown partly due to the increasing numbers of patients who require long-term care.

"Right now our average is higher, absolutely," said Tupper this past May.

"We have seen our percentage, or our number of patients, higher than we're at currently. We have seen it lower. So it's one of those things where it's impossible to predict. We manage it as best we can to try to meet the needs of those folks who are, through no fault of their own, (receiving long-term care in the hospital). It is an issue, there's no question."

She confirmed that some ALC patients will stay at the hospital for weeks or months, but others will be there for much longer.

"We have a couple of patients, and I can't give you the exact number off the top of my head, who have been here for longer than a year or two," she said.

"We also have patients who have been able to transition back to the community or to a nursing home in weeks or months. It is quite variable, depending on the individual patient and what their needs are."

By the end of June 2012, statistics provided by the Department of Social Development showed that 717 New Brunswickers were waiting for a placement in a nursing home at that time. Of that total, 452 applicants were waiting in hospital.

Social Development Minister Madeleine Dubé, who served as New Brunswick's Health minister for most of 2012, came face to face with this issue during a visit to the Grand Falls General Hospital earlier this year.

Though she was there to open a new laboratory and day-surgery suite, a physician took some time to tell her about the hospital's most pressing problem.

"Almost every one of the 20 funded beds in the Grand Falls General Hospital is filled with a senior awaiting placement in a nursing home or in the community. Sometimes, every bed is filled. The other patients, who are in the hospital for medical reasons, are being cared for in the emergency room, causing hours of unnecessary waiting and congestion for the patients there," Dubé wrote in a governmental blog posting.

"I sat in the emergency room's nursing station and talked to a doctor about the situation. All around me, nurses were doing their best to cope with what had to be a nearly impossible situation. The doctor was asking me for help and I could understand why. Could we add more hospital beds? Why can't we just add more nursing home beds? My answer to him was that there will be more nursing home and special care home beds, but there will never be enough to meet the demand for what's coming."

She said that by 2021 every hospital in New Brunswick could be facing the same shortage of acute-care beds.

Similar concerns were raised by Dr. Tim Christie, a philosopher and epidemiologist who specializes in medical ethics, at a public lecture he gave at the University of New Brunswick in November 2012.

Christie described the provincial government's \$329-million strategy for expanding and renovating nursing homes across New Brunswick by the year 2016 as a "catastrophe designed to happen," explaining that even when he uses conservative forecasting models he predicts a shortfall of between 1,363 and 2,271 nursing home beds.

Shortly after his presentation, he told The Daily Gleaner this shortage of nursing home beds will also spill into the public health-care system, creating bed shortages at hospitals across the province. If that happens, he said, it could cause frequent cancellations of non-essential surgeries, make it more difficult for people who need a higher standard of care, and force hospitals to care for patients for extended periods of time in the emergency room area as opposed to an in-patient ward.

"Right now, the acute system is managed so well that they're able to problem-solve this. They're making it so that they're not delaying surgeries, they're not cancelling them, they're not postponing them. And they're working hard to do this," he said.

"But the point of our research is that at some point the problem is going to become so big that you can no longer have management solutions. You'll need actual, final solutions."

The good news is that health-care providers, and provincial policy-makers, are working to address these issues.

Also in November, more than 325 aging-care stakeholders from across the province gathered in Fredericton for the first ever Summit On Healthy Aging and Care. The event gave health-care providers, government decision-makers, administrators, advocates, researchers, seniors and other partners an opportunity to get together in one room and discuss the challenges on the horizon and plan collaborations and shared strategies for the future.

John McLaughlin, chairman of the Premier's Panel on Healthy Aging, told the crowd changes in this province are going to be profound in the coming years.

"Fundamentally, the story we're talking about for seniors and this next chapter is a positive, optimistic story of engagement, of involvement, of giving back to your community. The narrative about seniors, and the seniors agenda, must be presented as a positive story of inclusion, of engagement embedded within which are lots of serious challenges," he said.

"If we take those two narratives and we separate them, if we have different communities and different dialogues, we're going to fail to address any of the issues before us."

### **Northerners want to be part of the solution, says Sousa**

The Sudbury Star - Dec 20, 2012, Page:A3

CAROL MULLIGAN, THE SUDBURY STAR

Every fibre of his being tells Ontario Liberal leadership hopeful Charles Sousa that Ontarians must control and build the economy to stimulate opportunity and provide the stability to afford the things that matter -- health care, education and social services.

The Mississauga South MPP visited Sudbury on Wednesday to listen to residents, understand their issues and collect ideas for the Liberal government he hopes to lead next year.

"Not all good ideas come from the premier's office," said Sousa in an interview with The Sudbury Star before attending a meet-and-greet at the Falcon Hotel in Garson.

In his conversations with Ontarians, Sousa has been surprised, impressed and encouraged with the level of engagement, while at the same time seeing a good deal of cynicism.

Relatively new to politics, Sousa is just finishing the first year of his second term. But he's counting on 20 years in banking, five years as a business owner, years of community volunteering and lessons learned from his Portuguese immigrant father to earn him the nomination at the Liberal leadership convention in January.

The father of three grown children learned at his father's knee that there is room for everyone to succeed and with that, the need to help everyone, "and that is what motivates me," said Sousa. It is also the role of government.

Sousa admitted he's not well known in Sudbury, although he visited here a couple of months ago as minister of Citizenship and Immigration, meeting with Greater Sudbury's mayor and council.

What he's heard in the North is people want to be part of the solution to problems facing government -- to offer ideas and for government to act upon them.

"They want decisions for the North by the North in the North," said Sousa.

He's engaged in discussions with municipal councils and aboriginal leaders, talking with them about the potential for development of the Ring of Fire chromite deposits.

Describing himself as someone who advocates for "long-term investments to get a positive return," Sousa said public-private partnerships will be needed to develop the transportation and energy transmission systems for the Ring of Fire, about 240 km west of James Bay and northeast of Thunder Bay.

Ontario needs both a north-south transportation corridor, to link the Ring of Fire to rail lines, and an east-west high-speed transit system in southern Ontario.

Those are "big ticket items we have to do over a longer period of time," some over 20 or 30 years, he said.

Sousa said he wants industry to put up the capital for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, rail systems and all-weather roads.

That transportation "spine" will be needed to tap into the "billions and billions and billions" of dollars to be had from developing the Ring of Fire.

It would be good for Ontario, good for the North and good for 27 first nations "who are suffering from their isolation by energy issues," said Sousa.

But developing that infrastructure "would have to be by way of a partnership," he said.

Ontario is competing against other parts of the world such as China and even Quebec, said Sousa, who wants secondary manufacturing facilities and smelters built here. "I want the ore being done here ... I want the majority of it happening in Ontario."

Sousa also has a strong energy policy, not surprisingly supporting the province's cancellation of a Mississauga gas plant, which critics say cost Ontarians at least \$240 million.

On the subject of health care, he said the system must be transformed to make it sustainable. That means attracting more personal support workers, nurse practitioners and front-line health-care workers.

PSWs and other health workers need to be better compensated, he said, and funding needs to be invested in family health teams and home care, especially for seniors.

"We can't make our hospitals into hotels," he said of the crisis in Ontario where hundreds of frail elderly people remain in acute beds due to a shortage of long-term care beds or home services.

The report by Don Drummond, commissioned by Premier Dalton McGuinty earlier this year, recommended tough measures to curb the province's \$15-billion deficit.

Still, "we have to be a compassionate and caring society," and that's where funding health care, education and services comes in.

One of seven candidates vying for the Liberal leadership, Sousa has been criticized by some for trying to distance himself from the premier.

Not so, he said, adding he has learned a great deal from McGuinty.

Improvements in education and health care were made under McGuinty's watch, as well as tough decisions around tax reform.

During the last recession, "during the toughest of times," Ontario needed "a stalwart," a "sober mind managing the finances and leading our province forward," he said of McGuinty.

He believes the premier recognized that, after 16 years, it's time to have "someone else take that charge. He's been there for 16 years, he's accomplished a lot, but we need to move forward and he recognizes that, too."

carol.mulligan@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @Carol\_Mulligan

## **CARE CUTS 'A NEW LOW' ; Opposition sees red over home Health penny-pinching**

The Edmonton Sun - Dec 18, 2012, Page:4

JACKIE L. LARSON EDMONTON SUN

Alberta Health Services quietly slashed home care across Alberta three weeks ago -- signs, critics say, of Alberta's own fiscal cliff.

On Nov. 26, AHS told home-care workers that service minutes were being cut across the board. Inquiries to Health Minister Fred Horne's office were referred to AHS.

"The government is meeting all this with a stony wall of silence," said NDP Leader Brian Mason.

"It's all done without any public knowledge, just done by stealth. It's an attack on the most vulnerable Albertans.

"To cut the very thing that's saving you money doesn't make any sense at all. And to do it on the backs of the most vulnerable -- and do it in a way that's not transparent -- is a new low for this government," he said.

Cathy Taylor's career as an Edmonton planner was cut short three years ago. Asthma complicated her muscular dystrophy. Home care providers became critical in her bid to remain in independent living, paying her own food and rent, saving the province money.

Each morning, a home-care worker helps her go to the bathroom, wash, dress, do her personal care.

The worker prepares food, gives her medicine. She gets physiotherapy for breathing, and range-of-motion.

There are nasal rinses for chronic sinusitis, a nasal spray, three inhalers, washing and filling her medicine dispenser.

Going from 1.5 hours to 75 minutes leaves her care provider scrambling to get it all done.

"This is my life. If I don't get it, I don't get a life," she said. "I'm saying, 'Do you really know how fragile people are? There's no fat on home care. It shouldn't be cut across the board -- that's draconian. Who does that?'"

Taylor will appeal, but she's concerned about those unable to be their own advocates.

"They're disempowered," she said. "That's why I'm talking."

While home care is traditionally for seniors, it also includes infants and children and those recovering from short-term illnesses and needing long-term or end-of-life care.

The minute-pinching is provincewide, said Marianne Stewart, AHS vice-president of community and mental Health for the Edmonton zone.

"We have not cut service, nor would we compromise care to our Health-care clients," Stewart said.

AHS "bundled" services like giving medicine (two minutes) or putting on stockings (eight minutes), leaving "spare" minutes to cut, she said.

Over the past two years, spending on home care has gone up about 25% to \$500 million, Stewart said.

In the same time period, AHS has added 5,000 clients -- and the biggest impact is in the urban centres of Edmonton and Calgary.

Critics have said the province is being propelled towards a pending Health-care crisis because the beds aren't in place even for Albertans who need them now.

More than 500 Albertans languish in acute care for months, even years, clogging urban emergency rooms because there's no long-term care bed for them elsewhere. There's just 14,500 long-term beds in the province now -- and by 2020, 50,000 beds will be needed.

"That demand for the Health-care service has outstripped our available budget ... we must be good stewards of public dollars, and look for ways to bring the budget into alignment," Stewart said.

Wildrose Party house leader Rob Anderson said the government's being penny wise and pound foolish.

"I don't know why they continue to use this fantasy of balancing the budget by cutting home care.

"It's just going to make the Health care budget more expensive by doing so," Anderson said.

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### **ALBERTA'S SENIOR CARE CLIFF**

\* The number of Albertans over age 65 has tripled since 1974.

\* Currently, 1 in 10 Albertans is a senior; by 2035, 1 in 5 Albertans will be a senior.

\* There are just 14,500 long-term beds in Alberta, unchanged in two decades.

\* By 2020, Alberta will need 50,000 long-term care spaces.

\* The most vulnerable Albertans are rationed to 1 bath a week.

\* In November, AlbertaHealth Services quietly cut the number of care minutes for home care clients by 10% or more across the board, provincewide.

### **Surgery wait times shorter but ER no better**

Calgary Herald - Dec 14, 2012, Page:B1 / Front

Jamie Komarnicki

Albertans aren't waiting as long to get hip, knee and other surgeries this year compared to last, but progress on speeding up the length of time sick patients spend in Calgary and Edmonton emergency wards before getting treated and admitted to hospital has flatlined, according to new data.

AlbertaHealth Services released its second quarter performance report Thursday, measuring more than 50 medical system indicators from July to September, 2013.

While many waits remain weeks longer than the province's targets, health super-board boss Dr. Chris Eagle pointed to improvements in 34 of the goals.

Wait times for hip replacement surgery are at their lowest in two years, at 35 weeks compared to 41 weeks last year. Knee surgeries have also seen shorter waits, down to 43 weeks, while patients who need cataract procedures spent roughly 30 weeks on wait lists.

"For the most part, our wait times are moving in the right direction: downward," Eagle said at an AHS board meeting in Edmonton.

The medical authority chief executive acknowledged, however, that ER woes remain as the province grapples with seeing more patients each year in the already busy wards.

Two years ago, AHS committed to a benchmark of having emergency department patients seen, treated and admitted to hospital within eight hours.

According to the performance report, that goal was met with 47 per cent of patients so far this year at the province's 15 busiest hospitals, compared to 46 per cent last year.

Calgary met the eight hour emergency department goal 48 per cent of the time in the same period, compared to Edmonton's 37 per cent.

Eagle said hospitals in Alberta's two biggest cities have seen roughly 10 per cent increases in patient volumes in their ERs annually for the past three years - a trend causing the health superboard "considerable concern."

"We're obviously keeping up with the flow and patients are being seen appropriately," said Eagle, noting times have improved in the last two years.

"We're looking at everything we possibly can to decrease that relentless increase in volume," Eagle told reporters in Edmonton.

That includes putting home care nurses in the ER to detour appropriate patients away from hospital beds if outside care is more appropriate, and working with the province's primary care providers, Eagle said. AHS has also hired more than 400 front line health professionals to tackle increasing ER demand, he said at the board meeting.

Wildrose health critic Heather Forsyth said the government's record on wait times is a litany of failure on "some of the crucial ones that keep the system from bottlenecking."

Little progress will be made on the emergency room issue unless the government properly addresses long-term care and ensures that seniors who are in acute care beds are moved into long-term care nursing beds, she said.

The performance report indicates that 557 elderly and frail patients are waiting in hospital beds for long term care or supportive living spaces. The province's goal is 363.

Liberal MLA David Swann said the lack of progress on surgical and ER wait times stems from huge problems within the primary, long-term and home care systems in the province.

"The prevention side we continually neglect at tremendous cost to our system," he said.

With files from James Wood, Calgary Herald [jkomarnicki@calgaryherald.com](mailto:jkomarnicki@calgaryherald.com)

## **Securing long-term care for Nova Scotia families**

The Daily News (Truro) - Nov 28, 2012, Page:A9

Jamie Baillie

For many Nova Scotians, life revolves around family. We play together, relax together and look after each other.

And together, we worry about the growing number of grandparents who need home care and long-term care.

Instead of preparing for the needs of a rapidly aging population, the Darrell Dexter-led NDP government has stopped working. They have not committed to a single, new long-term care bed since they were elected.



This inaction has serious consequences. Today in our province there are more Nova Scotia families waiting for long-term care than ever before.

The wait list for long-term care rose to 2,228 people in September. That's 50 per cent more than when the NDP were elected three short years ago.

Documents obtained by the Progressive Conservative caucus show 371 people were actually waiting in hospital beds for long-term care in September. That is the equivalent of three, full, new Colchester Regional Hospitals.

Patients deserve the care they need, when they need it, in the proper setting. The long-term care wait list crisis backs up our ER's and hospitals.

In October, the lack of long-term care beds led to overcrowding at the Bridgewater emergency room. In Truro, the bed shortage caused delayed admissions, backed up emergency care and postponed several elective, non-emergency surgeries.

The Dexter government has no plan for long-term care and the result is cancelled surgeries and overloaded hospitals.

In addition, according to the Department of Health's 2011-12 Accountability Report, 60 per cent of the people on the wait list for a nursing home bed needed home care as they waited. This adds more pressure to the growing wait list for home care.

The ripple effect through the health care system is obvious. Without action, the situation will worsen. Over the next 20 years the number of seniors aged 80 and over in Nova Scotia will more than double from 40,439 to 84,700.

We have lost three years of preparation time.

While in opposition, the NDP often spoke out about the need for more beds to keep up with the growing demand.

Then-opposition leader Darrell Dexter said, "The growth in the senior demographics will quickly outpace the government's plans to establish 832 long-term care beds by 2010." Unfortunately, when he was given the chance to do more, his government instead froze that bed construction plan and they are now over 200 beds short of the goal.

Seniors and their families rightfully expect long-term care to be there for them when, and if, they need it.

The Progressive Conservatives have a three-point plan:

1. Seniors requiring long-term care will get it, as we implement a new long-term care plan that matches new bed construction to the needs of our communities.
2. Hospital beds will be freed up and home care more readily available for patients and seniors who need it.
3. We will report our progress on these goals as part of a new Next Generation Act, so everyone can see the impact of today's decisions on the future economic, environmental and social fabric of our province.

I would like to hear from you if you have a family member who is waiting, at home or in hospital, for proper care. The Progressive Conservatives will act on your behalf on this important matter.

Jamie Baillie is the leader of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party and MLA for Cumberland South. He is also a native of Truro