

September 8, 2016



The Honourable Lori Sigurdson
Minister of Seniors and Housing
Office of the Minister
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Re: Lodge Program Renewal Consultations

On behalf of the Alberta Seniors Communities & Housing Association (ASCHA), I wish to congratulate you on the work your Ministry is doing to move the Lodge Program Renewal forward for the benefit of Alberta's seniors. Our members have participated by submitting their feedback via the mechanisms presented to them, mainly by responding to the survey that was made available online. We trust that this feedback has been found to be helpful by those working on this file.

ASCHA has represented the lodge program for over a half a century and is a vital partner in this program. The success of the lodge program in Alberta has been a result of strong partnerships with the providers, ASCHA and the municipalities. In addition to simply submitting our feedback, I believe ASCHA needs to be at the table to review the results of the survey and finalize recommendations in collaboration with the Ministry and other stakeholders. This will also allow us to work with the grassroots membership to make sure that any changes proposed in the recommendations actually work in the lodges and for the seniors they serve.

A number of years ago, the Government of Alberta approved the formation of the Lodge Program Renewal Advisory Committee under the Seniors Lodge Program Renewal Strategy Framework. This Committee, comprised of members from various sectors involved with the Seniors Lodge Program, included government representatives from various ministries, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), Alberta Seniors Communities & Housing Association (ASCHA), and operators under the Seniors Lodge Program. Together, the committee put forth a total of 24 recommendations to address issues within the program and offer actionable solutions to improve long term sustainability and funding models. After a few years of intense collaboration, we hope we are a part of building a better future.

It is our hope that we can continue to work with government to review the survey results and finalize recommendations that will set the lodge program up for success for another 50 years. We look forward to the opportunity to meet and offer more in-depth participation. Irene Martin-Lindsay, our Executive Director, can assist with any arrangements and can be reached at irene@ascha.com or at 780.439.6473.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Swonek', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Raymond Swonek, CA, CIHCM
President

cc: Shannon Marchand, Deputy Minister
Irene Martin-Lindsay, Executive Director, ASCHA

Seniors are empowered to have choice and a life of purpose, wherein they are honoured, valued and respected.

