

The Carbon Tax Levy has **unintended implications** for Albertans who receive care and supports through Alberta's Continuing Care system (Home Care, Supportive Living, and Long Term Care):

- The Alberta Government has implemented a rebate for lower and middle income earners to offset costs associated with the levy.
- In Designated Supportive Living (DSL) and Long Term Care (LTC), the owners and operators are assessed the levy, while the rebate currently goes to the resident.
- The resident has no ability to utilize the rebate to reduce the carbon footprint in a congregate setting, which is the intent of the levy.

Effective July 2017, increases to the accommodation rate are tied with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which does not sufficiently cover increased accommodation costs such as:

- Electricity
- Gas
- Food
- Housekeeping/housekeeping supplies
- Building maintenance
- **The impact of the carbon levy**

The Alberta Continuing Care Association **supports initiatives** to reduce the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta, but has **Suggested Solutions** to offset the increased costs:

- Government of Alberta provide energy rebates or grants to providers of Home Care, Supportive Living and Long Term Care, or
- Government of Alberta channel rebates for individuals residing in DSL/LTC to the building operator versus the resident while at the same time providing energy rebates to providers of Home Care, or
- Government of Alberta allow providers to implement a surcharge equal to the rebates provided by the government to clients and residents, or
- In addition to the planned CPI increase, the DSL and LTC Accommodation Fee Rates for 2017 and 2018 should be further increased to reflect the value of the energy rebates paid to residents.
- Government of Alberta exempts the Continuing Care industry from the carbon levy.

## Continuing Care Facts & Figures...

Based on data from LTC homes, ACCA published a paper in March 2015, *Review of Alberta Health Recommendation to Increase Accommodation Fees*, suggesting accommodation rates (for a private room) of \$2,393.00 for 2015, \$2,465.00 for 2016 and \$2,515.00 in 2017. Today accommodation rates for a private room in Alberta, which are regulated by government, are \$1,950.00. This is one of the lowest rates in Canada for similar services.

The implications of the carbon levy, extrapolated into care hours for Health Care Aides, would equate to 44,200 hours annually for 13,000 individuals cared for in congregate settings by ACCA members.

The carbon levy of 4.49 cents per litre of fuel will significantly impact Home Care, the cost of which will be borne by the provider or the home care worker. ACCA's Home Care providers travel an estimated 3.7 million km/year to provide 5.5 million hours of care. Home Care providers cannot reduce care hours. Their only recourse is to decrease coordination of services (including intake and transition services) and education and supervision of staff, all of which have a major impact on the quality of care to Albertans.

Other costs that will have an impact are price increases in the supply chain for goods and services including, but not limited to: food and supply deliver, fuel costs for ground maintenance and fuel costs for organizations who provide travel for resident recreational activities.

The Alberta Government announced an exemption from the carbon levy for farm fuels to support the agricultural sector. Albertans in Continuing Care deserve similar consideration to ensure that there is no impact on food or housekeeping service, and the maintenance of their homes, all of which are extremely important to the residents and their wellbeing.