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May 16, 2023  
For immediate release

## BC SOCIAL WORKERS AND ACTION FOR REFORM OF RESIDENTIAL CARE CALL FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE REFORM

(Vancouver) BC's professional association for social workers joined with Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC) today to call on the BC government to create a diverse and inclusive multi-sectoral advisory forum to develop and support the implementation of a comprehensive and evidence-informed action plan to reform BC's long-term care system.

"BC's long-term care system is in trouble, said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. "COVID-19 worsened the system's glaring deficiencies and weaknesses; however, the problems have resulted from decades of underfunding, failure to address serious systemic issues, and lack of oversight and monitoring of standards."

ARRC called for a non-partisan, multi-sectoral advisory forum last year. ARRC proposed that the government bring together care providers, families, and people with lived/living experience to develop a comprehensive provincial action plan to reform LTC by addressing long standing systemic issues identified in the ARRC report.

"Short staffing in residential care facilities results in diminished quality of life for residents with both staff and families left feeling powerless to change things," said ARRC Chair Penny MacCourt. "Government's efforts to address issues have been piecemeal and new national standards are at best only guidelines."

ARRC wants to see a reformed LTC system that would support resident quality of life by empowering families and family councils, enhancing staffing levels, increasing staff education, strengthening and monitoring standards, and by quickly replacing old, institutional buildings and aging infrastructure.

Today ARRC and the BCASW launched an online letter-writing campaign available to all British Columbians demanding that the BC government take action to improve the lives of seniors living in long-term care.

<https://act.newmode.net/action/bc-association-social-workers/take-action>

Proposal for a B.C. Long-term Care Advisory Forum  
<http://arrcbc.ca/>

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The BC Association of Social Workers is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. BCASW was incorporated in 1956 and has branches and members (including students) throughout BC.

The Action for Reform of Residential Care Association is dedicated to promoting quality of life for residents in long term care facilities in British Columbia through education and advocacy. The association is made of up care providers, clinicians, researchers, family members ,and other citizens concerned with the care provided in long-term care facilities. ARRC's goal is a long-term care system where residents are supported to live their lives as fully and joyfully as possible.

*BCASW & ARRC acknowledge that we work in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members and colleagues live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We appreciate and acknowledge Métis and Inuit peoples across British Columbia.*