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July 3, 2024

Harwinder Sandhu, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Sandhu:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with you about dementia care for older adults.

We are following up at your invitation to share a few key points:

- Related to the research taking place at the Care Village in Comox and the tracking of the 3.36 hours of care, the BCASW Seniors Community of Practice would like to see social work hours counted as an identifiable component. We believe it is an important first step to doing so routinely as a provincial approach.
- In our brief, [The Call for Mandated Social Work Positions in Long Term Care and assisted Living](#) we describe the many important "social care" oriented contributions that social workers can make and the lack of easily available information about numbers of social work positions and the invisibility of the contributions made by social workers.
- Social workers can play a leadership role in designing and delivering interdisciplinary education and quality of life values-based practice that can help to promote a more social care approach to adults with dementia living the best life possible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff. We are hopeful that the Roundtable option put forward by the Action for Reform of Residential Care BC is something your government will consider; there are many organizations including BCASW that welcome the opportunity to provide many interdisciplinary insights that can turn the focus from a strictly medical to a more person-centred and quality of life model of social care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Dow".

Dr. Elizabeth Dow, BSW, MSW, PhD  
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*We acknowledge that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We acknowledge territory and Indigenous Peoples and commit to genuine and ongoing work to forge real understanding, and to challenge the legacies of colonialism. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant communities.*

c.c. Dr. Penny MacCourt – Action for Reform of Residential Care in BC