

June 2020

## National Seniors Week

It's National Seniors Week and during this unprecedented time it is more important than ever that we recognize and celebrate the seniors in our lives and our community.

At ExquisiCare, we strongly believe that our elderly citizens are among our community's greatest treasures. We recognize that our elders may require assistance due to physical frailty or medical condition, but believe they can continue to be active participants in our community and strongly support and promote their right to enjoy a high quality of life in the most sustaining manner possible.



## Transforming Senior Funding in Alberta

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We know that COVID-19 outbreaks are occurring disproportionality in long-term care and seniors' homes. Our Prime Minister says the outbreaks in these facilities are "unacceptable," and that we must ask "tough questions" about how this situation came about. I am calling for transformational change in how we care for our community's greatest treasures - our seniors.

There is no need to ask the "tough questions." The answer is staring us all in the face, and it has been for years. The current funded model for institutionalized senior care doesn't work. When we warehouse our seniors in wards it is impossible to contain the spread of colds and influenza - let alone a pandemic.

Two things need to change in order to transform senior care:

- We need to move towards residential models of care
- The funding needs to follow the resident

[Read More](#)



Our CEO, Dawn Harsch recently had the opportunity to voice her thoughts on Senior Care Funding in Alberta during a Round Table discussion on the Ryan Jespersion Radio show [Listen here](#)

**As COVID-19 Ravages Nursing Homes, A New Push For**

## Better Senior Housing

There have been 10,000 deaths and 50,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff at long-term care facilities as of last week, [according to the Kaiser Family Foundation](#), a national public health organization. In some states, nursing home residents account for more than half of COVID-19 deaths. Those alarming numbers have intensified an important discussion the nation will wrestle with for years to come: How can the United States expand community-based alternatives for seniors and improve care in larger facilities?

[Read More](#)

## Our COVID-19 Response

With the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19, over the last few months we know that many there has been concern about seniors in Long Term Care and Congregated Living Sites. We are pleased that our residents and staff have remained safe and well.

We acted quickly in mid March and closed our homes to all but essential staff (before this was mandated by the Alberta Government). We also prohibited our staff from working at other long term care homes or medical facilities; prior to the Government mandate.

We have hired more staff and are prepared to continue providing loving care to our residents should we have any staff that must be off work due to illness or self isolation. The safety of our residents and staff has been and continues to be our highest priority.

We continue to have staff complete a Government mandated wellness check and temperature reading upon arrival for their shifts. This is logged and saved.

As mandated by the Alberta Government; our staff now wears masks during their shift for the protection of your loved ones.

Residents are now enjoying Physically Distanced outside visits with family.

It has been and continues to be a difficult time for everyone but we are proud to be able to be here for our elders and provide them with love and care. We also have been engaging the residents in many fun activities in our homes! See some pictures below!

## Understanding Different Types of Dementia

There are a number of types of dementia. The overlap in symptoms of various dementias can make it hard to get an accurate diagnosis for a particular type. A health care professional will be required to make a proper clinical diagnosis, and this will become the basis for interventions and

## Cameron Heights



We are excited that our 3rd home is almost complete and

important treatment decisions.

The following information is provided to give you an overview of the different types of dementia as many people are familiar with just the one type, Alzheimer's disease.

### [Read More](#)

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**Exquisicare Homes  
Home**



**Care at  
Home**

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TO A FRIEND**

Exquisicare | [dawnharsch@exquisicare.com](mailto:dawnharsch@exquisicare.com) |

we look forward to welcoming residents in September!

Please email [dawnharsch@exquisicare.com](mailto:dawnharsch@exquisicare.com) for more information and to apply for residency.

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### **Our Home Care Services**



### **Quick Links**

[Alzheimers Society](#)

[Alberta Continuing Care Association](#)

[Alberta Senior Citizens Housing Association](#)

[Alberta Council on Aging](#)