
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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March 1, 2019

Ministry of Health

Improving residential care in Interior Health

KAMLOOPS – Seniors in the Interior are benefitting from a nearly \$5.3-million investment in 2018-19 to increase staffing levels and make sure that seniors get the care they need in residential care homes.

This initial investment starts year one of a three-year plan to increase the direct care that seniors receive in residential care homes in the Interior and throughout the province — to reach the target 3.36 care hours per resident-day, on average across health authorities, by 2021.

“Under the plan that Premier John Horgan announced in 2018, our government is taking clear action to meet the target of 3.36 care hours per resident-day, on average, by health authority,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “The target of 3.36 had been set in 2008. In 2017, less than 3 in 20 care homes met the standard, including virtually all the publicly funded beds in private and non-profit care homes. For seniors, this meant below-standard care, fewer baths and a lower quality of life than our parents and grandparents deserve.

“Our government is committed to delivering on our promise to improve seniors’ care and have increased staffing for seniors’ care in the Interior, with approximately 156,000 more direct-care hours to be provided in Interior Health this fiscal year alone. This increase in care hours means seniors will receive more help with dressing, bathing, eating or taking part in social activities.”

The nearly \$5.3-million investment in care hours for the Interior is part of \$48.4 million being allocated to health authorities in 2018-19 to fund over one million more hours of direct care throughout the province. The increased funding for residential care is the first allocation in the three-year investment of \$240 million to increase the direct care that seniors receive to an average of 3.36 hours per resident-day by health authority, as announced in September 2018. In 2016, the average direct care hours in British Columbia were 3.11 per resident-day.

Across the 31 residential care homes that received funding in the Interior, approximately 77,000 additional direct care hours have been provided by the end of September 2018.

“People living in residential care expect to receive the best day-to-day support possible, and this investment is vital to delivering on the Province’s promise to improve supports for patients outside of hospital,” said Anne Kang, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors. “This funding will help improve the lives of people living in residential care, while supporting the hardworking staff in these facilities.”

“Staff at residential care homes work incredibly hard and care a great deal for the seniors they see every day. These investments are more than just numbers — they’re supporting people,”

added Kang.

Increasing the staff hours in residential care homes in the Interior is just one of several health-care improvements underway in the region. These include:

- the expansion of the province's first urgent primary care centre with the opening of a family practice learning centre in Kamloops;
- moving ahead with the new patient care tower at Royal Inland Hospital;
- providing age-friendly grants to 14 communities across Interior Health in 2018; and,
- moving ahead with a new state-of-the-art tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.

Quotes:

Doug Cochrane, board chair, Interior Health —

“Interior Health is committed to providing a range of quality health services for seniors, including long-term care. Through this investment, we will see additional staffing and care hours to further support the needs of this medically complex and vulnerable population.”

Quick Facts:

- Residential care homes offer seniors 24-hour professional supervision and care in a safe and secure environment.
- Health-care assistants are frontline care providers who work in a variety of institutional and community settings including home support agencies and residential care homes.
- In April 2018, the ministries of Health and Advanced Education, Skills and Training announced approximately \$3.3 million to create new health-care assistant seats in 11 post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. to increase staffing levels in residential care homes and community care sectors.
- Approximately 50% of health-care assistants in B.C. are part time or casual.
- Through the \$240-million investment over three years, the average direct care hours in B.C. will increase from 3.11 per resident-day in 2016 to 3.24 by 2019 and reach 3.36 by 2021.
- New funding of \$48.4 million in 2018-19 will add more than one million hours of direct care.

Learn More:

For more information on new health-care assistant seats, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018HLTH0019-000666>

For more information on increasing staffing in residential care homes, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018PREM0072-001861>

A backgrounder follows.

Contact:

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

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BACKGROUND

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Interior Health facilities funding breakdown

Below is the breakdown of increased funding for direct care at Interior Health region facilities:

Castleview Care Centre
Castlegar
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$111,000

Joseph Creek Village
Cranbrook
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$191,000

Crest View Village
Creston
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$68,000

Rocky Mountain Village
Fernie
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$105,000

Silver Kettle Village
Grand Forks
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$98,000

Columbia Garden Village
Invermere
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$55,000

Ridgeview Lodge
Kamloops
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$86,000

Pine Grove Lodge
Kamloops
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$173,000

Kamloops Seniors Village
Kamloops
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$210,000

The Hamlets at Westsyde
Kamloops

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$242,000

Brocklehurst Gemstone Care Centre

Kamloops

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$255,000

Mission Creek Landing

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$85,000

Glenmore Lodge

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$123,000

Village at Mill Creek

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$178,000

Sun Pointe Village

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$194,000

Brandt's Creek Mews

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$246,000

Spring Valley Care Centre Ltd.

Kelowna

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$384,000

Mountain Lake Seniors' Community Ltd.

Nelson

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$222,000

Mariposa Manor

Osoyoos

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$148,000

The Hamlets at Penticton

Penticton

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$185,000

Haven Hill Retirement Centre

Penticton

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$347,000

Piccadilly Care Centre

Salmon Arm

Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$93,000

Mount Ida Mews

Salmon Arm
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$179,000

Rose Wood Village
Trail
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$105,000

Heritage Square
Vernon
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$114,000

Creekside Landing
Vernon
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$159,000

The Hamlets at Vernon
Vernon
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$210,000

Lakeview Lodge
West Kelowna
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$62,000

Village at Smith Creek
West Kelowna
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$314,000

Williams Lake Seniors Village
Williams Lake
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$271,000

Lake Country Lodge
Winfield
Incremental funding provided for 2018-19: \$74,000

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