



B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

A component of NUPGE (CLC)

Resolution on Seniors' Care

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Submitted to Kelowna City Council

May 31 2011

WHEREAS how we care for seniors is an important benchmark in measuring how our society treats its citizens;

AND WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, preventing expensive hospital stays, controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system, and supporting the dignity and well-being of seniors;

AND WHEREAS the City of Kelowna has an interest in ensuring quality care to Kelowna seniors and their families;

AND WHEREAS the Okanagan is a retirement destination for seniors and the demand for quality seniors' care facilities and home support services in the Okanagan is only going to increase in the future;

AND WHEREAS in the Central Okanagan Regional District the elderly dependency ratios (i.e., the ratio of those aged 65 and over to those aged 18 to 64) are much higher than the ratios of the province as a whole, have shown a slight upward trend, and have been much higher than provincial ratios throughout the last two decades;

AND WHEREAS funding pressures on all seniors care facilities is resulting in decisions to contract out the care and support staff who provide direct care for seniors.

AND WHEREAS contracting out of seniors' care at other seniors' care facilities in the Okanagan has already been shown to be harmful and disruptive for seniors;

AND WHEREAS continuity of care is extremely important to seniors living in care facilities, and staff and clients often develop very close relationships built on care and trust;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kelowna write to the Premier and Minister of Health of BC urging the provincial government to fully fund increased levels of care at residential care facilities within existing staff contracts to ensure seniors and their families can count on high-quality, accessible seniors' care in their homes and communities.

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