**August 19 2020
Engage BC** [**https://engageseniors.ca/about/**](https://engageseniors.ca/about/) **Meeting with Rebecca Frederick, Senior Manager, Strategic Engagement EngAge BC and Mike Klassen, Acting CEO**

**BACKGROUND:**Established in 2019, EngAge BC has a mandate to support the distinct needs of private pay independent living, assisted living, long-term and home health care operators. EngAge BC is responsible for developing and operating a suite of unique programs and marketing initiatives that support member sites across the province.

**EngAge BC** is an operating arm of BCCPA: [BC Care Providers Association](https://bccare.ca/)  with its own brand and mandate

**BCCPA**  <https://bccare.ca/>

**A VOICE IN GOVERNEMENT:**Mike meets with government and ministries to advocate for improved support for seniors
EngageBC has an ask for 30 million ($100/resident/month) for funding to improve recreation.
Each fall, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services holds province-wide public consultations on the next provincial budget at which Mike has presented and continues to advocate for funding
Ironically, there are several aging members who would likely soon benefit by having this funding pass and EngAge BC continues to enlighten the Standing Committee of the value in this funding.

Challenge in BC: Elder Care in BC is not the same as some other provinces. Elder care in BC is health. In Ontario it is Health and Social Care. So currently, advocacy for seniors spans 2 government entities making results slower to realize.

Lead from the top down and focus on building relationships with other FC as a collective Family Councils of BC with the 2 arms of government: Ministry of Health and Social Services.

**Bringing collective voices forward can be made through contacting you MLA.** Enough voices can result in government support at the local level.

Find my LMA: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members>

 **VISITATION DURING A PANDEMIC:**BCCPA and EngAge BC are working with an advisory group of experts to develop The Best Visit Possible: A guide for supporting family visits during COVID-19. The objective of the guide is to discuss how visits, both in person and virtual, can be approached in this new context, to support the best quality of life possible for residents.

**QUALITY OF LIFE FRAMEWORK:**

 [A Quality of Life Framework for Seniors’ Care in B.C. to discuss leading practices in family visits, amid COVID-19.](https://bccare.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BCCPA_Quality_Framework_June2019.pdf)

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| Values | Principle |
| Engagement | Person-Centered |
| Respect | Collaboration |
| Dignity | Leadership\* |
| Inclusion |  |

\*Strong leaders can promote a culture where interactions and relationships are valued over the delivery of time specific tasks

Rebecca is coordinating intake from family members about VISITATION DURING COVID**.** Encourage every family to fill this out now: <https://bccare.ca/the-best-visit-possible/>

**Question:**We asked if BCCPA or EngAge BC would consider creating a Family Council adjunct or family council membership so there would be a voice when needed and avenue for input and feedback which would lend valuable data and potential solutions to the work of BCCPA and EngAge BC.
- They said everything we brought up is exactly what they are advocating for right now but it is early days.

**Where do we go from here?**Family Council to approach Vancouver Island Family Council Alliance and speak with their Chair <https://vifamilycouncils.com/>

**Share with LBHH Families:
Strongly encourage families to participate in lending their voice, ideas, and solutions to:**"Best Visit Possible" <https://bccare.ca/the-best-visit-possible/>

**Follow BCCPA’s Quality of life Framework A Quality of Life Framework for Seniors’ Care in B.C.** to discuss leading practices in family visits, amid COVID-19.