

2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS – LONG-TERM CARE

Budget 2024 highlights new measures that will strengthen Canada's social safety net to lift up every generation. No matter your age, your income, or your circumstances, every Canadian deserves to feel secure in the knowledge that they will get the care and support they need. Because this is what Canadians do; they take care of each other. (Boy is this an understatement!!!)

Key Ongoing Actions (this is across Canada not just BC)

- Providing nearly \$200 billion over ten years to strengthen universal public health care for Canadians, including \$1.7 billion to support wage increases for personal support workers and related professions, and \$5.4 billion for long-term care and home and community care to help people age with dignity close to home.
- **Tailored Bilateral Agreements:** \$25 billion over ten years that provinces and territories can use to address the unique needs of their populations and geography, on top of an existing \$7.8 billion for bilateral agreements in home care, mental health, and long-term care.

Strengthening Long-Term Care

Long-term care residents deserve to live in dignity and comfort. Gaps in the quality of care seniors receive in long-term care homes must be addressed to ensure everyone can age with dignity.

Since 2017, the federal government has invested \$11.8 billion in long-term home and community care. More action is needed to keep seniors safe. The federal government is taking this action because our seniors, and those who care for them, deserve better.

- Budget 2024 announces the government will introduce a *Safe Long Term Care Act** to support new national long-term care standards to help ensure safe, reliable, and high-quality care, and improve infection prevention and control practices.
- * <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-safe-long-term-care/document.html> Consultation is closed but the Act is not out yet

[Development of a federal Safe Long-Term Care Act: Discussion paper - Canada.ca](#)

Now that the standards have been released, we are turning our attention to developing the Safe Long-Term Care Act. This will build on past efforts to support long-term care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.canada.ca

The federal government recognizes that provinces and territories are primarily responsible for managing the delivery and operation of long-term care facilities, including how and whether they adopt the standards. By introducing a *Safe Long-Term Care Act*, the federal government will encourage provinces and territories to adopt the best practices in the long-term care

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facilities under their management.

Aging With Dignity Agreements with Provinces and Territories

The ***Aging with Dignity*** agreements will provide \$5.4 billion to improve access to home care, community care or care in a **safe long-term care facility** for seniors today and tomorrow. So far, nine provinces and territories have announced agreements with the federal government. It is anticipated that agreements with the remaining provinces will be announced shortly.

British Columbia

Aging with Dignity Agreement: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/shared-health-priorities/aging-dignity-bilateral-agreements/british-columbia-funding.html>

\$733 million over five years announced on February 12, 2024

- Expand home and community care services to better meet the needs of seniors and help reduce pressures on hospitals and emergency departments; and,
- **Strengthen the appropriateness, safety, and quality of long-term care** by enabling consistent, appropriate standards of care and oversight of long-term care services.