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Email: bevmckay@telus.net

Ms. Bev McKay
Box 969
Cochrane, AB T4C 1B1

Dear Ms. McKay:

Report of the Auditor General on Seniors Care and Programs

Thank you for your email of June 6, 2005. Here is a response to the questions you submitted regarding the Report of the Auditor General on Seniors Care and Programs.

Question	Response
<p>1. The estimated \$750 million.</p> <p>(i) Does the estimated \$750 million for long-term care services encompass services to long-term care facilities AND supportive living settings?</p> <p>(ii) If the estimated \$750 million is specific to long-term care facilities, what are the sources of that money (i.e. government subsidy + resident accommodation fees)?</p> <p>(iii) Did the audit team have sufficient information from Health and Wellness/ RHAs to determine whether the estimated \$750 million was spent as intended, namely to deliver quality care services in an effective and efficient manner?</p> <p>(iv) From information provided by Health and Wellness/RHAs, was the audit team able to determine exactly what resident services and care operators are required to deliver?</p>	<p>No, just long-term care.</p> <p>Government subsidy plus accommodation charges</p> <p>No. See recommendation No. 3, page 34 of our report.</p> <p>No. See recommendation No. 1, page 29 of our report.</p>

Question	Response
<p>2. The \$15 million</p> <p>(i) What are the sources of the \$15 million to the Seniors Lodge Program (government subsidy)?</p> <p>(ii) Did the audit team have sufficient information from the Seniors Ministry/ RHAs to determine whether the \$15 million was spent as intended, namely to deliver quality care services in an effective and efficient manner?</p> <p>(iii) From information provided by the Seniors Ministry/RHAs, was the audit team able to determine exactly what resident services and care lodge operators are required to deliver?</p>	<p>Government grant - Lodge Assistance Program and per client grant.</p> <p>No. See recommendation No. 8, page 49 of our report.</p> <p>No. See recommendation No. 7, page 48 of our report.</p>
<p>3. The \$178 million</p> <p>(i) From information provided, was the audit team able to determine the number of seniors in long-term care facilities receiving the ASB?</p> <p>(ii) From information provided, was the audit team able to determine whether ASB funds to seniors in long-term care facilities are deposited directly in an account managed by the facility?</p> <p>(iii) If ASB funds are held in a facility account, was the audit team able to determine whether an independent audit has been conducted on this account?</p>	<p>We didn't look at this in our audit.</p> <p>We didn't look at this in our audit.</p> <p>We didn't look at this in our audit.</p>
<p>4. Standards</p> <p>(i) What primary resource did the audit team use to identify current standards for long-term care facilities? (i.e. the Nursing Homes Act and Regulations; the 1995 document, "Basic Service Standards for Continuing Care Centre"; Regional Standards)</p> <p>(ii) The Auditor General recommended the "Department of Health and Wellness update the Basic Service Standards for services in long-term care facilities." Under this recommendation, will standards be updated in legislation/regulation OR in the document, "Basic Service Standards for Continuing Care Centres?"</p> <p>(iii) The Auditor General recommended the Department of Health and Wellness "improve systems for monitoring compliance of long-term care facilities with the Basic Service Standards." Under this recommendation, does the Auditor</p>	<p>Both legislation and the 1995 document, "Basic Standards for Continuing Care Centres".</p> <p>This will be at the discretion of the Department to decide.</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Question	Response
<p>General anticipate the improved system will encompass an enforcement team and a mechanism for the application of sanctions for a pattern of non-compliance?</p>	
<p>5. The separation of care (Ministry of Health and Wellness) and accommodation (Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports)</p> <p>(i) Did the audit team seek information to determine the government's rationale or justification for separating out "care" from "accommodation" for long-term care residents?"</p> <p>(ii) If so, did both Ministries provide information to this effect? If so, where might the general public access this information?</p>	<p>No, just the support from legislation.</p>

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Lori Trudgeon, communications coordinator, at ltrudgeon@oag.ab.ca or 780-422-6655.

Yours truly,



Merwan Saher, CA
 Director of Communications

RW/lt
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