



ALBERTA
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Office of the Minister

AR64316

SEP 29 2008

Ms. Carol Wodak

cwodak@techwcs.com

Dear Ms. Wodak:

Premier Stelmach forwarded to me your September 1, 2008 e-mail regarding home care. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

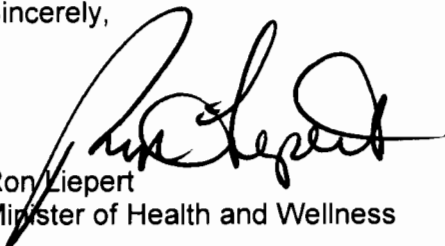
I am aware of the Special Senate Committee on Aging's Second Interim Report and I certainly agree that home care, including respite and palliative care, are important aspects of the current and future care of seniors in our province and across Canada.

As you have observed, the Senate Committee's report pertains to federal services. My department will continue to implement initiatives to improve provincial home care services; for example, projects are underway to develop ways to improve access to quality palliative care services and expertise, particularly in rural regions, and to look into options for a provincial respite care program. A Continuing Care Strategy is also being developed to address the needs of an aging population.

It is my understanding that the Senate Committee is gathering further testimony and feedback to support the development of their final recommendations, which I look forward to reading. I assure you that the final recommendations will be considered by my department as we strive to improve home care services within Alberta.

Thank you for your continued interest in continuing care.

Sincerely,



Ron Liepert
Minister of Health and Wellness

cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier