

An open letter to Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC)BC members, contributors, and supporters of the *"Improving Quality of Life in Long Term Care – A Way Forward"* report,

Re: *Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care, Mable Elmore*

January 15, 2021

Dear friends:

We are pleased to let you know that the ARRCBC leadership presented the ARRC report at a one hour Zoom meeting with Mable Elmore, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, and Terri Collins A/Assistant Deputy Minister for Health Sector Information, Analysis and Reporting, on January 12, 2021.

It was a positive and productive dialogue. Ms. Elmore had read our 81 page report and thanked ARRC for its passion and commitment to quality of life for residents in B.C. long-term care facilities. She commended the quality and depth of analysis in the report and its concrete recommendations for change. She also noted the substantive support generated for the recommendations.

We advocated for the immediate creation of a multi-stakeholder Task Force to spearhead a paradigm shift in LTC that focusses on facilitating quality of life and addresses long standing system issues, building on ARRC recommendations. We impressed on Ms. Elmore that many people and organizations stand ready to support the government in planning change. While stating that she would bring our recommendations to Minister Dix, Ms. Elmore did not affirm that the government has plans for systemic change in long-term care. She agreed to meet with us on a regular basis going forward.

Ms. Elmore encouraged us to ensure that the ARRC report is forwarded to all British Columbia MLA's and MP's. We will do so this week and ask that all ARRC members and supporters do likewise. As you know, the more feedback elected officials receive on any given topic, the more likely it is that action will occur. Please forward the report

(see- <http://arrcbc.ca/Improving%20LTC%20full%20report%2018-01-21.pdf> )

to your provincial representatives to them and also widely throughout your networks.

ARRC will continue to raise awareness regarding the need for systemic change in this province's approach to long term care. We will continue to raise concerns, share our activities, advocate for change, and discuss government's actions to improve LTC in the ongoing meetings with Ms. Elmore. We aim to add more key influencers and organizations to those that support this work. To be added, please contact Dr MacCourt, pennymaccourt@shaw.ca.

We are very pleased that we were able to speak on behalf of our province's long-term care residents, their families, and friends, and the staff who provide care. Their stories and contributions to the report facilitated our ability to create a powerful, first-person narrative. The breadth of supporters added considerable strength to the ARRC recommendations. Thank you everyone.

We would welcome your feedback and ideas as we plan next steps.

Very best wishes,

Penny MacCourt MSW, PhD

On behalf of Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC) BC

<http://arrcbc.ca/index.html>

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