



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Jenica Atwin

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FREDERICTON

November 30, 2020

**The Honorable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health**

**House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6**

Re: Long-term care in New Brunswick

Dear Minister Hajdu,

On October 15th of this year the New Brunswick Nurses Union put out a report called “The Forgotten Generation: An Urgent Call for Reform” highlighting the limits of the long term care system in New Brunswick and the glaring need for change. This exhaustive research on the province’s nursing home sector shows the ever increasing challenge of finding beds for seniors and the degradation in the quality of care.

There has been increasing worries coming from the registered nurses union about the increase of private nursing homes, and more importantly the plans of the provincial government to further develop this industry. The union highlights numerous studies that show privatizing is not the best option for patients. But the extensive report touches on a variety of issues to which we already know the solutions too. The report explains the importance of having nurse practitioners in long term care units and the benefits it has not only on the quality of care given to patients but also the gains that are made on the overall healthcare system with these kinds of changes. I’m writing to you today because I believe it is the time to act on this.

Since 2004, the province of New Brunswick has seen 16 reports on seniors and long term care with very little being done after their publication. With Minister Bruce Fitch already questioning some of the statements made in the report and explaining that now is not the time for change, it is clear that the federal government must play a role of

leader in this issue. Recommendations addressed directly to the federal government can be found in this report and include security for workers, demographic challenges, funding necessity and lack of workforce.

I hope to see your government be leaders on this issue to ensure that the long term care units provide the quality of care that Canadians deserve across the country and in the province of New Brunswick. I would welcome the opportunity to talk further with you about this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenica Atwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenica" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Atwin".

CONFEDERATION BUILDING, SUITE 318
229 WELLINGTON AVE
OTTAWA, ON
K1A0A6
JENICA.ATWIN@PARL.GC.CA