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HOME CARE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SESSION

**GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

**FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010
9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Welcome

- Good morning
- Thank for the opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of Alberta Health Services. I would like to welcome everyone in this room today and everyone who is joining us through video and teleconference.
- Alberta Health Services has maintained from the outset that home care will be the hub – the foundation of the continuing care system. It is critical to the success of our seniors strategy and it's critical to the care of not only seniors but children, adults and adults with disabilities.
- It's a common misconception that only seniors require home care. In fact, home care crosses all generations and provides a full basket of services ranging from providing care to the person who needs wound management after surgery to those who require intensive pain management and end of life care.
- I cannot stress enough how important a strong home care system is for Albertans.
- It is our intention to develop home care as an all-in standard service package, not a program that envelopes funding into pots for which people have to apply or qualify. Not a program with silos and individual historical caps. It will be part of the continuum of services, funded consistently with activity-based funding. It will be a priority for us to grow home care.

- While we are building a home care system that allows people to connect and receive services from a variety of entry points to the health-care system, we are also moving toward a system of coordinated access where no matter where you live in Alberta, you can easily make a connection. And our process for assessments to determine health and personal care needs is now consistent across Alberta. And we want to ensure that people with the same need will have the same access to home care wherever they live in Alberta, Edmonton or Calgary, regional centre or town.
- Thanks to the great innovation and efforts of many generations of health care workers, Alberta Health Services already has a strong foundation for home care in place. But it's not our intention to stop here.
- Hundreds of Albertans are receiving home care services. Home care is helping us to keep people out of emergency rooms, and preventing acute care admissions.
- Home care is supporting seniors to remain well and independent and in their own homes. It is supporting informal caregivers to have a role in their loved one's lives and, at the same time, giving those informal caregivers a break when they need one.
- More and more frequently, home care is called upon to support families through end of life care when a loved one chooses to spend their last days in the comfort of their own homes.

- Alberta Health Services is committed to maintaining and enhancing home care services. We have several projects underway today that we know are helping home care to connect with people in the community. EMS, for example, is making assessments in people's homes and - where appropriate – making direct referrals to home care. It's making a huge difference and, again, preventing hospital visits and admissions.
- More emergency rooms in Alberta have home care staff on site to link with ER patients who might need home care support when they return home.
- Today's session is a great opportunity for all of us. I am very interested in hearing from the experts who are here today to share their knowledge and expertise with us. I believe we can continue to build on what is already a pretty great program in this province.
- Thank you to Alberta Health and Wellness for hosting this session and many thanks to all of you for your commitment and great work. Have a good day.

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