

As part of the Alberta Health Services Boards' ongoing commitment to community engagement, openness and transparency, members of the public, in attendance at the Public Board meetings, are invited to submit questions to the Board. A direct response will be provided and the question and response will also be posted on the AHS website prior to the next Public Board meeting. Questions of the Board can also be submitted through the Board Office at AHSB.admin@albertahealthservices.ca

Q: *How will the Seniors Action Strategy be consistent when many northern communities such as Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan do not have a designated assisted living facility or sufficient long term care beds? How will this be achieved and what is the target timeframe?*

A: As part of the planning for the future needs of seniors and also other patients requiring continuing care services, Alberta Health Services has initiated a consistent, province-wide process to determine what those needs will be, based on population projections to the year 2021.

A principle of providing a range of services as “close to home as possible,” has been established. These services will range from Home Care through Supportive Living, right up to Long Term Care Facilities. The provincial Seniors Health program is working with the North zone staff to determine how increased capacity can be achieved in each identified service area.

Once the need and capacity has been determined, Alberta Health Services will work with communities to implement a variety of strategies, including possible new spaces, conversion of existing spaces and partnerships with existing housing operators to provide the care required to assist people to age in place within a service area/community.

The plan is a living one that will be reviewed annually to ensure we are appropriately responding to the assessed needs of our clients within the identified service areas and communities.