
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
Ministry of Health Services

PROVINCE PROVIDES FURTHER SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN CARE

VICTORIA – The Province is introducing a new residential care regulation to provide increased protection to the health, safety and dignity of persons in care, announced Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport. The new regulation comes into effect on Oct. 1, 2009 and replaces the adult care regulations and the residential pieces of the child care licensing regulation.

“Under the new residential care regulation, we have better protection in place for persons in care, and increased accountability for licensees,” said Chong. “Both are essential to ensuring that we are building the best system of supports in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.”

Protecting the health and safety of persons in care is the primary focus of the residential care regulation. New protection under the regulation includes fall prevention measures, assessment for risk of wandering, banning of smoking by staff on the premises of care facilities, and strengthening health precautions on communicable disease.

“The new regulation’s increased measures to prevent falls in residential care facilities are welcome changes,” said Dr. Vicky Scott, clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia’s school of population and public health. “Additional protections for older persons in care can mean a significant reduction in the number of falls, which continue to represent the leading causes of injury for people over the age of 65.”

In addition, licensees are now more accountable under the new regulation. Hiring practices, record keeping, incident reporting, staff orientation, performance reviews and emergency preparedness are all areas with increased accountability for the individual licensee.

“The new regulation includes important protection for seniors who are at risk of wandering, which we welcome,” said Susan House, executive director of the Denominational Care Association. “When seniors are at risk of wandering, our first priority is to have the appropriate plan in place for their safety and security. This will ensure this takes place in all facilities.”

The process of reviewing and renewing the residential care regulation was lengthy and very thorough. More than 1,200 people participated in the consultation, which included 31 sessions in 15 communities, an online consultation forum on the Ministry of Health website, and focus groups with key stakeholders.

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