

To Premier Kenney, and Ministers Sawhney, LaGrange, and Schulz,

We write to you today as education workers to urge you to stop any plans to privatize government run homes for persons with developmental disabilities. In particular, we are concerned about plans for the Rosecrest Home in Edmonton, which partners with Edmonton Public Schools to deliver education for the children with disabilities who live there.

We are the Canadian Union of Public Employees Locals 3550, 474, and 784 as well as the Alberta Teachers Association Local 37. Collectively, we represent over 10,000 workers in Edmonton Public Schools. This includes the teachers and educational assistants at Scott Robertson School who teach and support the children at Rosecrest.

As you know, on June 10th guardians and workers in Calgary and Edmonton under Direct Operations for persons with developmental disabilities were given 90 days' notice of a "consultation" period with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees to "explore alternative service delivery", or privatization. To our knowledge, there has been no consultation with Edmonton Public Schools, and definitely not with the members of our Locals who work directly with the children in Rosecrest.

We know that Rosecrest is a valuable home providing excellent care. Without Rosecrest, many of them would be in beds in the Stollery Hospital. Scott Robertson School's centralized location allows education staff easier access to provide a supportive learning environment. Concerns have been raised about how or even if this program can continue if a private provider takes over care of the children at Rosecrest. The transportation of medically fragile children could prove detrimental to their health and learning.

We also know that as these children have aged out of Rosecrest, their families and guardians have chosen to keep their loved ones in the public system, relying on their placement as adults in Residential Support Services in Edmonton.

These are homes of choice. Families and guardians have always had the ability to place their loved ones with a private provider; they have chosen not to. As well, there is currently nothing stopping any of the residents of Direct Operations from moving to a private provider today. We believe a government truly committed to choice would not be working to take that choice away, and would allow everyone who wishes to remain in the public system to do so.

We urge you to end the exploration of "alternative service delivery", and to commit in writing that these important public homes that provide care for vulnerable Albertans with complex needs will not be privatized nor closed during your term in government.

Sincerely,

Heather Quinn, President, Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37  
Carol Thompson, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3550  
John Vradenburgh, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 474  
James Niven, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 784

cc. Alberta Union of Provincial Employees

