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December 8, 2020

Alberta Health Services  
Suite 900, 9925 109 Street NE  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2J8

ATTENTION: Shelley Chen  
Krystie Watson-Boyd

It has come to our attention that Carewest is no longer for sale, according to a Carewest director.

Yaro Kiselev, Director of Operations, Signal Pointe, Rouleau Manor & OSI Clinic, told staff at an EMAC meeting on Oct. 30, that Alberta Health Services (AHS) has given no direction on privatization of Carewest and that it will not happen.

I enclose a copy of the minutes of that meeting and draw your attention to item 2.4:

#### **Sell [sic] of Carewest**

- As per Yaro, Carewest is not acting on this and will not happen – not in the next three or four years. We will wait until the next review. AHS have not given direction regarding privatization

If this is true, it is great news for AUPE members employed by Carewest and for the Albertans who live in Carewest facilities. Our members are proud of the quality of care they provide and know that private operators do not operate at the same level.

Please confirm as soon as possible that Carewest is not for sale now and will not be for at least the “next three or four years.”

Please confirm that this is also true for CapitalCare.

Our members, the residents of Carewest and CapitalCare facilities and their families have been put under tremendous stress worrying about the future. That stress should not go on a day longer than necessary.

If this information is not true, we respectfully demand that Carewest be directed to correct the miscommunication to staff, residents and families immediately, by writing letters to all parties. It is inappropriate to have misinformation on a matter as serious as the care of thousands of residents and family members left uncorrected.

If this is not true for CapitalCare, we urge that accurate information be given to staff, residents and families there as well.

It has also come to our attention that the Carewest Executive Leadership Committee emailed all staff on Nov. 6 to say that AHS is considering the privatization or outsourcing of internal departments including food services, transportation and pharmacy and that this process could affect Carewest and that it "will take months to years to be implemented ..."

A change of this nature will have significant effects on AUPE members and may mean the loss of jobs as we have seen in AHS, where you are eliminating 11,000 support jobs.

We request that you keep AUPE informed of this so that the terms of our collective bargaining agreements be respected.

Again, we ask if the same situation applies to CapitalCare.

The Nov. 6 Carewest email also discussed the Elimination of Floor Funding for continuing-care operators and said that this could lead to a decrease in funding. Does the same apply to CapitalCare? We ask that you keep AUPE informed on this issue as well and the effect it will have on staffing levels, compensation and possible job cuts.

Finally, members are hearing rumours that the Gene Zwozdesky Centre expansion of Capital Care Norwood in Edmonton could open with privately operated beds instead of having the beds run by Capital Care. Can you confirm that the original plans and funding to open those beds as a part of the publicly operated Capital Care is still in place?

Alberta is in the midst of the worst health crisis in more than 100 years. Carewest workers have performed heroically on the front lines of the fight to keep Albertans safe. When issues are under consideration that could cost their jobs, they have the right to be informed as early in the process as possible.

Sincerely,



Chris Dickson  
Union Representative – Negotiations  
AUPE

cc: Jim Petrie  
Julie Jacques  
Nick Driedger