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December 8, 2020

CapitalCare
6th Floor, 10909 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 3M9

ATTENTION: Elgie Demchuk
Ian Caldwell

It has come to our attention that Alberta Health Services (AHS) may be delaying the sale of Carewest and we are writing to ask if the same applies to CapitalCare.

Carewest staff have been told by one of that company's directors that AHS has given no direction on the privatization of the company or its facilities and that there will be no sale for three or four years.

I enclose a copy of the minutes of an EMAC meeting where this was discussed 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

Is CapitalCare in the same position? Have you received no direction from AHS on privatization and can you guarantee there will be no sale of Capital Care for three or four years?

If this is true, it is great news for AUPE members employed by CapitalCare and for the Albertans who live in CapitalCare 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 CapitalCare is not for sale now and will not be for at least the “next three or four years.”

Our members, the residents of 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 ask that CapitalCare communicate this to staff, residents and families immediately, by writing letters to all parties. The discussions among Carewest staff are reaching the ears of CapitalCare workers and they are asking questions. It is important to clear up any misinformation on a matter as serious as the care of thousands of residents and family members.

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 ...”

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

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 the employer is 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.

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 CapitalCare Norwood in Edmonton could open with privately operated beds instead of having the beds run by CapitalCare. 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. CapitalCare 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