Noel Somerville, Chairperson of Public Interest Alberta's Seniors Task Force, speaking at the March 14 press conference about the eviction of 80-year-old long-term care patient Grace Denyer:

The shocking story you have just heard is yet another example of the tragedies that occur when the government fails to provide enough long-term care (nursing home) beds for seniors who have been medically assessed as requiring that level of care.

It is also an example of the consequences of privatized delivery. Numerous studies, including the HQCA LTC Family Experience Survey, have shown that the type of ownership of LTC facilities is a determinant of the quality of care provided. For-profit facilities are less likely to provide quality care than non-profit or public facilities. Care and profit just don't seem to mix.

On Monday evening, the Minister of Health spoke about incremental improvement in the health care system. unfortunately, for seniors, the past 20 years, has brought only incremental deterioration through re-organization, fragmentation, unbundling, rationing, de-listing or privatization of services.

I think it is time the Alberta government stopped trying to curtail its health-care expenditures on the backs of Alberta seniors, like Mrs. Denyer.