

November 29, 2018

Honorable Jim Reiter  
Minister of Health  
Room 204 - Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S-0B3

Dear Minister Reiter:

**RE: Increase in Long Term Care Funding**

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SEIU-West members and leaders were surprised with your public statements reported by CTV, on November 7, 2018, in a news story. You were reported as having confirmed that funding for Long-Term Care (LTC) has increased by over 40% under your watch. Our front-line members have not reported any relief to staffing shortages, particularly with respect to hands-on care providers, which may have come as a result of this increase in funding. Our follow-up efforts to obtain verification of this increase via communication with staff at your office, has not met with any reply to date.

In view of your announcement, we are inquiring when this additional funding was provided to the health care budget. We have been unable to ascertain the same in our review of the provincial government's budget documents. Was this targeted funding directed towards capital funding or operational funding? Does the Ministry of Health have any accountability targets outlined with this additional funding? Is this funding temporary or permanent in nature? Our members have not experienced a funding increase in the provision of added staff to improve quality of care on the front line. On their behalf, we would like to know why funding increases of this nature have not been used to invest in safe staffing levels for front line caregivers.

Thank you for providing the requested information. SEIU-West members and leaders remain particularly interested in having a fulsome discussion about the need for improved staffing levels in the LTC sector, given the increased workload issues and complex resident needs facing our members on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Cape  
President of SEIU-West

cc: Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Greg Ottenbreit  
Scott Livingstone, CEO – Saskatchewan Health Authority  
SEIU-West Executive Board  
SEIU-West Staff

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