

Responses to Times & Transcripts Four Part Article on Seniors July 2010

*Letter to the Editor from Greg McKim, NBHSA Communications – **Helping Seniors Stay in their Homes***

We read the recent four part article regarding seniors in the Times & Transcript with great interest. We felt the articles missed one very important part of senior care in New Brunswick. That is the more than 4,500 employees that help seniors remain in their homes.

The government's Long Term Care Plan shows that New Brunswick seniors prefer to remain in their homes for as long as possible. A critical part of helping seniors stay in the homes is the support they receive from Social Development.

Many of the services offered are provided by member agencies of the New Brunswick Home Support Association. NBHSA member agencies employ 3,500 people throughout New Brunswick. They provide invaluable assistance and service to seniors and infirm so that they can remain in their homes.

In addition many seniors are cared for in their homes by their families. The NBHSA is dedicated to improving the quality and availability of service in the province and is currently in discussions with the New Brunswick government to provide adequate funding to improve training.

*Letter to the Editor (Response) from Brian Murphy M.P. Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe – **Ottawa Must Act on Home Care***

We could not agree more with the letter to the editor from Greg McKim on July 15.

For weeks now Canadians have written in to discuss the tremendous stress facing our long-term care centres. Canadians are not getting the level of care they deserve. Today, some 2.9 million Canadians provide care for a family member with long-term health problems. In the next 10 years one in five Canadians will be over the age of 60 and this will only increase the pressure on our healthcare systems.

We believe that the federal government must do more to support better quality healthcare for Canadians and improved homecare must be part of the solution.

The Canadian Cancer Society has called for the extension of the Employment Insurance compassionate care benefit to help caregivers extend care for family members. Other organizations have called for more training of homecare professionals, support to help renovate homes and programs to provide respite for family members.

We support these calls for action to improve homecare- it is time the federal government takes leadership to support improved care for our parents and grandparents.