

From: ASCHA <ascha@ascha.com>
Sent: November 3, 2022 11:36 AM
To: ASCHA <ascha@ascha.com>
Subject: An Advocacy Win for the Lodge Program!
Importance: High

Dear Members,

After the October 27th announcement confirming that the Lodge Program was moving to the Ministry of Health, ASCHA has been busy advocating on behalf of lodge providers and communities impacted by this change in direction.

ASCHA was in contact with both the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health, as well as the Premier's Office, to seek an answer on the rationale for the move, leveraging our relationships we have built with various subject matter experts, government representatives, and municipalities. We also heard that members have been writing letters to the Premier voicing their concerns. Recently, our members in Brooks, AB were able to attend the Premier's townhall in the riding, and to speak to her during a lodge visit, to inform Premier Smith of the unintended consequences of this decision. This local advocacy during the by-election was crucial to getting this issue quickly addressed.

We also scheduled a series of member discussion meetings this week to seek input and feedback from members, holding our first of the three meetings yesterday.

If you registered for today's or Friday's member discussions, please note that these are now CANCELLED. Why?

We are delighted to inform you that our collective advocacy efforts were effective! The Premier's Office informed us at 4:00pm on Wednesday that the Lodge Program will remain with the Ministry responsible for housing – the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services! This is a huge win, and a relief to our municipal partners and Housing Management Bodies!

We will be in further discussions with the Ministry and hopefully with the new Minister, Jeremy Nixon, in the weeks ahead. Please continue to send us any of your thoughts or ideas, so we can ensure your questions are brought forward.

We also sincerely thank all those who elevated this issue and made it a priority this week. It speaks to the power of grass roots advocacy, but most importantly, why association membership and active participation matters!

NOTE: If you have added Zoom meetings in your calendar for today and tomorrow's member discussions, you will need to delete these manually from your calendars.



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**Note: Our address has changed. Please update
your internal records accordingly.*