

United Nurses of Alberta

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Via Fax: 780-415-0961

The Honourable Fred Horne
Minister of Health Wellness
#208 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Horne:

Re *Nursing Homes Operation Regulation, Alta Reg. 258/85*

We write to you today for two reasons.

First, congratulations on your appointment to Cabinet and for assuming responsibility for health care issues in Alberta. We look forward to your leadership in this important area.

Second, one area that cries out for leadership is with respect to the government's obligation to enforce the rules for nursing homes. For instance the *Nursing Homes Operation Regulation, Alta Reg. 258/85* ("*Regulation*") requires:

14(1) An operator shall have at least one nurse on duty at all times in his nursing home, and if at any time none of the nurses on duty are registered nurses or certified graduate nurses, the operator shall ensure that a registered nurse or certified graduate nurse is on call during that time.

...

14(3) An operator shall designate a person as the charge nurse for his nursing home for each shift.


The *Regulation* defines nurse as a registered nurse, a certified graduate nurse, or a registered psychiatric nurse (s. 1(1)).

The *Nursing Homes Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. N-7 ("*Act*") sections 12-14 give the Minister the means and the obligation to enforce both the *Act* and the *Regulation*.

It has come to our attention today that Hardisty Care Centre Ltd. (“Hardisty”) which operates a nursing home in Edmonton appears to be in breach of s.14 of the *Regulation*. While Hardisty has designated a charge nurse for the day shift and night shift, it has refused to advise us who is designated in charge for the evening, and weekend shifts. None of the nurses employed at the Hardisty Care Centre have been informed that they are designated in charge therefore the only logical implication is that s. 14(3) of the *Regulation* is being breached. This afternoon in response to my question “so you are not prepared to designate a person to be the nurse in charge on each shift?” The Employer responded “that is correct.”

We ask that you exercise your jurisdiction under the *Act* to investigate and enforce the *Regulation*. We look forward to hearing from you about this.

Yours truly,


David Harrigan
Director of Labour Relations

c.c: Deputy Minister of Health – Jay G Ramotar (Fax: 780-427-1016)
Mike Conroy, VP, Edmonton Zone, AHS
David O’Brien, VP, Seniors Health, AHS
Hardisty Care Centre