



**For immediate release
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21 per cent of all acute care beds occupied by long-term care patients over past five years

HALIFAX – According to data obtained by the NDP Caucus under Freedom of Information, over the past five years 21 per cent of all acute care beds in hospitals province-wide have been occupied by patients waiting for long-term care.

“Health care is in serious crisis. Emergency rooms are either closed or overcrowded and paramedics can’t transfer patients because of a lack of beds,” said NDP Leader Gary Burrill. “Too many of our hospital beds are being used as long-term care beds because the Liberals have failed to open a single new nursing home bed in the past five years.”

The situation is much worse in the Western Zone and Northern Zone of the Health Authority where roughly 30 per cent of the acute care beds have been occupied by patients waiting for placement in long-term care.

“The Liberals’ lack of attention to the crisis in health care is astounding,” said Tammy Martin, NDP Spokesperson for Health. “If we want to solve the problems in our emergency rooms, we need to urgently address the lack of beds in long-term care.”

Gary MacLeod is the chair of Advocates for the Care of the Elderly. He has had two relatives go through the process of getting long-term care.

"We need more nursing home beds. Family members shouldn't be burned out trying to keep aging parents or grandparents at home when they know it can't be done with just two hours of home care per day," said MacLeod.

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* Please note: The number of acute care beds is based on information provided by the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. This data is for the fiscal year 2015-2016. The number of beds has been relatively constant for a number of years, but may have varied slightly from year to year.

Zone	Year	Acute care beds*	Acute care bed days	ALC bed days	Percentage
Western	2012-2013	362	132130	35552	26.91%
	2013-2014	362	132130	34563	26.16%
	2014-2015	362	132130	41190	31.17%
	2015-2016	362	132130	44923	34.00%
	2016-2017	362	132130	47557	35.99%
	Five year total	1810	660650	203785	30.85%
Northern	2012-2013	232	84680	28212	33.32%
	2013-2014	232	84680	28063	33.14%
	2014-2015	232	84680	27647	32.65%
	2015-2016	232	84680	24149	28.52%
	2016-2017	232	84680	16314	19.27%
	Five-year total	1160	423400	124385	29.38%
Eastern	2012-2013	469	171185	41692	24.35%
	2013-2014	469	171185	36921	21.57%
	2014-2015	469	171185	31544	18.43%
	2015-2016	469	171185	27551	16.09%
	2016-2017	469	171185	25239	14.74%
	Five-year total	2345	855925	162947	19.04%
Central	2012-2013	802	292730	56592	19.33%
	2013-2014	802	292730	58282	19.91%
	2014-2015	802	292730	42428	14.49%
	2015-2016	802	292730	32834	11.22%
	2016-2017	802	292730	36977	12.63%
	Five-year total	4010	1463650	227113	15.52%

All zones	2012-2013	1865	680725	162048	23.81%
	2013-2014	1865	680725	157829	23.19%
	2014-2015	1865	680725	142809	20.98%
	2015-2016	1865	680725	129457	19.02%
	2016-2017	1865	680725	126087	18.52%
	Five-year total	9325	3403625	718230	21.10%