

# ISSUE IN FOCUS



*Celebrating 100 Years*

SASKATCHEWAN  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Call for Independent Commission on Long-Term Care System

### Background:

According to the 2016 Canadian census, approximately 38% of Saskatchewan's population is 50 years and older. With a large, aging demographic, it is essential that the province prepare for increased demands that will continue to be placed on our long-term health care system.

### Issue:

The long-term care sector across the country has been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this crisis, longstanding gaps within Saskatchewan's long-term care system are becoming increasingly evident. Chronic understaffing, stretched resources and high demand for facilities were widely acknowledged issues in our long-term care facilities prior to COVID-19. In addition, staff are not all equipped to work with residents who have mental health or cognitive issues such as Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

### Recommendations:

1. That the provincial government initiate an independent commission to examine the province's long-term care system that includes extensive representation from private care home providers in the province. In addition, other long-term facilities for non-seniors should also be examined as many of these residents have been underserved by federal COVID-19 response measures and are among the most vulnerable.

### History:

Letter to Minister of Health 2020