

Statement

Minister of Health responds to open letter on Elders care

April 5, 2022
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Minister of Health John Main has today released the following statement.

“On March 3, 2022, Pairijiit Tigummiaqtikkut wrote an open letter bringing forward serious concerns about the care Nunavut Elders are receiving at Embassy West Seniors Living (EWSL) in Ottawa. Both the Government of Nunavut and EWSL took these concerns very seriously.

Immediately upon receiving the letter from the Government of Nunavut, Embassy West Senior Living sent the letter to its regulatory body, the Ontario's Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA), which triggered an investigation. The RHRA, which is an independent regulator responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of seniors living in Ontario's retirement homes, determined there were no findings of non-compliance related to the concerns identified by the Pairijit Tigummiatikkut. I want to emphasize that this investigation included a bilingual Government of Nunavut staff member who assisted with a walk-through to speak with all Nunavummiut regarding the concerns.

The Government of Nunavut and our care partners, such as Embassy West Senior Living, take the care of Nunavut Elders very seriously. We appreciate feedback and the opportunity to review our practices to ensure we continue to provide the best care possible.

I understand many people feel strongly about increasing the availability of in-territory care options for Nunavut Elders and we are working to make that a reality. The Government of Nunavut continues to work toward expanding in-territory care options with planned facilities such as the Rankin Inlet Long-term Care Centre. We are committed to meeting the long-term care needs of Nunavut Elders and providing quality care in a culturally appropriate manner.”

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