



# Information Sheet: Alberta Health Care Aide Directory Project

## Overview of the Project

The Alberta Health Care Aide Directory Project has been created to oversee the establishment of the Alberta Health Care Aide Directory. This Directory will be a central, web-based database of Health Care Aides (HCAs) in Alberta.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who are Health Care Aides?

Health Care Aides (HCAs) deliver basic health services, assistance and support with activities of daily living for clients with medical conditions or functional limitations. HCAs provide the majority of direct care in the continuing care sector, increasingly work in other parts of the health system, and make up the second largest group of health workers in Alberta.

### What is the Alberta Health Care Aide Directory?

The Alberta Health Care Aide Directory will contain information about HCAs employed in Alberta in a variety of settings, including acute care and continuing care (home care, supportive living, and long-term care). This will include HCAs working for all employers in Alberta, both publicly and privately funded.

The Directory will be web-based, and will include relevant information about HCA demographics and attainment of core competencies. The specifics about what information will be in the Directory, and how HCAs will be enrolled, will be made available on the directory website as soon as it becomes available. The directory will be its own entity, and is funded by an Alberta Health grant.

### Who will use the Directory?

The directory will be used by HCAs, employers, and government ministries.

### What is the goal of the Alberta Health Care Aide Directory?

The goal of the Health Care Aide Directory is to provide information about the attainment of core competencies of HCAs in Alberta. This information will be useful to HCAs, employers, educators and government. The directory will recognize HCAs as attaining the required core

competencies to provide care to Albertans and as valued members of the health care team. Information from the directory will help support HCA workforce and educational planning.

### **Why do we need a Health Care Aide Directory?**

The Government of Alberta is committed to having a competent and valued Health Care Aide workforce that provides quality, person-centred care to Albertans. This directory is one way to achieve this goal, as over time, it will assist Albertans to become informed about their care providers.

In addition, the directory will allow employers to verify the recorded attainment of core competencies of individual Health Care Aides. Attaining core competencies means that Health Care Aides have met the basic core competency requirements (as per the provincial HCA core competency requirements).

Three other provinces collect information about similar health workers: [British Columbia](#), and [Nova Scotia](#).

### **Who is involved with the Directory Project?**

This project is funded by a grant from Alberta Health. Alberta Health has partnered with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses (CLPNA), who will lead the project, engage key stakeholders and develop and administer the directory.

An independent Steering Committee provides project guidance. The committee involves representatives from Alberta Health, CLPNA, Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health. Stakeholder consultation will also be used to provide expert advice and guidance to the project, including employers, educators, unions, and regulators and association representatives.

### **When will the Directory be available?**

The Alberta HCA Directory will be available May 1, 2017.

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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