

June 28th, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Summit Event Planned for Fall

A coalition of organizations serving the interests of seniors came together last year to discuss sustainable alternatives for operational challenges and how we could work together to find ways to support one another and ultimately the seniors we serve. This dialogue led to the creation of a collective interest for a vision that supports a future where New Brunswick citizens experience healthy aging, and where we are able to provide services that responds to the needs of individuals.

We must begin a conversation about how we can better support seniors in the community and how we provide care in the most appropriate and desired setting. This will require a conversation, which is not focused on our day to day operational issues, but is about establishing a new vision that allows for “deep change” to occur. Creating and supporting a new vision can happen with the collective effort of seniors, care providers, advocacy and service organizations in the community, long term care, acute care and government. As such, the coalition of organizations have come together to plan a summit where a dialogue for a new vision that enhances our system and public policy can begin with all stakeholders.

The members of the coalition include:

Horizon Health Network
Réseau de santé Vitalité
University of New Brunswick
Université de Moncton
New Brunswick Home Support Association
New Brunswick Special Care Home Association
Association Francophone des Établissements de Soins Spéciaux du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes
New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation
Association acadienne et francophone des aînées et aînés du Nouveau-Brunswick
Department of Social Development
Department of Health

An anticipated outcome of the summit is that a resolve for change is established amongst stakeholders with an excitement for the next steps to continue in achieving deep change. What these steps are and how they occur will be determined as a result of stakeholder participation and on-going engagement.

The summit will be a historic event on the topic of aging where many meaningful conversations will happen. No other event like this has ever been held in the province as we have traditionally

worked in individual “silos”. The fact that so many diverse groups are collectively seeking to create a new vision is a significant achievement in itself.

The “Summit” is scheduled to take place on the 6th and 7th of November at the Fredericton Inn. A discussion paper will be developed this summer for circulation to a wide variety of New Brunswick citizens, which will serve as the substantive base of summit discussions. An announcement outlining the event program will be released in coming weeks.