



NEW BRUNSWICK  
HOME SUPPORT ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION DE SOUTIEN À DOMICILE  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Press Release New Brunswick Home Support Association Broken Promise April 26, 2013

The New Brunswick Home Support Association represents 3500 home **support workers** in the province through 42 agencies. In addition to families and friends who provide care, there are a further 1000 “private providers” currently funded by Social Development.

The Alward government campaigned on the promise of increasing support for Home Care Support agencies and its staff. In a release by this government - Putting New Brunswick first For A Change “Commit to regular increases in wages and benefits for senior care workers every year for the next four years, as well as increases for funding for home care agencies, special care homes and nursing homes to help them meet rising costs.”

There has been only one increase for home support workers working for agencies. In 2011 a government directive that Home Support Workers working for an agency must be paid a minimum of \$11.00 per hour, no increase for agencies. This was forced upon the industry with threats of no business if no compliance.

A major concern of the NBHSA is the inequality in the standard of care provided to the seniors of this province. The NBHSA is 100% committed to the development and implementation of our training program for Home Support staff. Our concern is with the seniors who receive subsidized care from private caregivers. The Department of Social Development has indicated it fully supports the right of individuals to request care from a source of their choice. The NBHSA agrees with this right but is alarmed that the private caregivers will not be held to the standard established in conjunction with the Government of New Brunswick. The NBHSA is encouraging the Government to mandate all caregivers providing Home Support to be held to the same standard so the seniors of New Brunswick can be assured they receive a standard of care sanctioned by the Province.

The budget estimated released April 23, 2013, announced increases for Social Development spending, but nothing for in-home support. This government has clearly stated we need to reduce spending. When appropriate in-home supports are in place for Seniors and disabled, it saves substantial costs to the health system (bed blockers) or long-term care dollars with placement in Nursing home (increase announced 2013) or Special care home (increase announced 2013). With supports by keeping people in their homes where they want to be, is the most cost-effective. Why have the Government decided no funding increases for home care supports for seniors and disabled, and increase funding for the most expensive care?

Why has the Government not kept their Election platform promises for funding of the home care industry? Why has the government put more dollars into the most expensive care for seniors, and nothing for the most cost-effective, home care?

Where is the logic in the present spend and where is the support?