

November 19, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

ICcer selects interim director

Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research will enhance continuing care in capital region, province

EDMONTON – The Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICcer) has appointed its first interim director, Sandra Woodhead Lyons, to lead this unique partnership aimed at enhancing long-term care in Alberta.

“We’re thrilled to have found someone with Sandra’s qualifications and experience to join the Institute,” said Jaye Fredrickson, ICcer Steering Committee member and Vice President Academic at NorQuest College. “We have a wonderful opportunity in front of us and Sandra is the ideal person to help us realize our goal of enhancing long-term care in the province.”

Woodhead Lyons has a long and distinguished career in Alberta’s health system, as a government employee and as an independent consultant. She has been involved in project management, policy and program development, and health human resource planning. Sandra has extensive experience bringing together academics, practitioners and decision-makers to bring interdisciplinary initiatives to fruition.

Woodhead Lyons’ initial responsibilities will be to work with the ICcer Steering Committee to design, develop and implement the governance framework, funding model and strategic plan for the Institute. Based in Edmonton, the Institute will provide a learning community where best practices in education, research and care are developed and used to improve the quality of care in the continuing care system.

“The Institute is tasked with bringing together researchers, educators and clinicians to develop models that will be used to improve resource capacity within the province,” says Woodhead Lyons. “Our number one priority is to enhance patient care in Alberta’s long-term care facilities and I’m very excited to join this innovative organization as we attempt to do just that.”

ICcer will also facilitate interdisciplinary and inter-professional education for care providers.

“One of our major targets in the first 12 months is to get an initial group of students from NorQuest College and the University of Alberta together in a community-based setting for joint clinical practicums,” explains Woodhead Lyons. “Immersing students in a real-world learning environment will truly enrich their learning experience.”

The University of Alberta, NorQuest College, CapitalCare and Alberta Health Services are the founding partners of ICcer, whose mandate includes:

- Strengthening the effectiveness of the clinical practicum in the continuing care environment
- Stimulating and supporting research and its application in continuing care
- Sharing knowledge and expertise with the community
- Promoting continuing care as a career of choice

Background material on ICcer is available upon request.

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