

Vote **NO** to **DAVID ALWARD'S** Senior Care Policy



Pictured here, Pauline Mattison (84 years old) with her daughter Paula and son Mark in September 2013.

David Alward and his MLAs very quietly changed their senior care policy in 2012, eliminating the provincial subsidy for well-minded seniors wishing to enter a specialized care home.

My name is Mark Mattison. My mother Pauline is 84 years old, a dialysis patient, and after falling and breaking both her hip and elbow requires 24-hour care. In September 2013 we were shocked to discover the senior care policy had changed. Since 2012, only seniors with advanced dementia continue to receive the subsidy. The Alward government is using medical diagnosis to deny financial subsidy to my mother and hundreds of N.B. seniors like her simply because they do not have dementia.

ALWARD IS CREATING HOSPITAL "BED BLOCKERS" & FORCING SENIORS TO SELL THEIR HOMES

The large nursing homes were full, with long waiting lists, so my mom's only option was to stay on the newly created "Seniors Ward" at the George Dumont Hospital for between 12 – 24 months until a nursing home bed became available. Feeling trapped, but not prepared to admit my mom to the senior ward; my siblings and I cashed out retirement accounts and secured a specialized care bed for her at a cost of \$4,650 per month which equates to \$56,000 per year. David Alward and his MLAs publicly proclaim that no senior in New Brunswick will have to sell their homes to

receive nursing home care. In fact, as our funds diminish, that's exactly what my 85 year old father, who has advanced prostate cancer, will be forced to do - sell the family home, thus jeopardizing his own independence.

ALWARD DISCRIMINATES BASED UPON MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

Alward's new policy literally blindsided our family. Since October 2013, at my mother's request, I've waged a very public battle with Alward and his MLAs via newspaper, radio and T.V. interviews, and as well, presented a petition with 1,200 signatures to the provincial legislature. We are trying to alert New Brunswickers that based solely on medical diagnosis senior care for those with no dementia will no longer be subsidized. We elect politicians to lead. David Alward has been silent on this gross injustice, hiding behind his bureaucrats at the Department of Social Development (DSD) who engage in tactics of delay, deny and confuse. DSD refers to out-of-province research reports to legitimize their claim that well minded seniors do not mix well with dementia patients in a specialized care home setting and that there could be safety issues. Of course this is nonsensical because as soon as our family signed the "private pay waiver", DSD had no reservations about mom entering a specialized care home. How convenient!

Have there been any "safety issues"? No. Also, oddly, large nursing homes are filled with just such a mix.

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CONSERVATIVES LACK LEADERSHIP

The MLAs in David Alward's P.C. caucus should be ashamed of their inaction on this file. In private meetings they all agree that DSD needs to reverse their policy of using medical diagnosis to deny financial subsidy to well minded seniors. Alward's MLAs all say that they are being stonewalled by DSD who refuse to change policy. To this I say "BULL-CRAP". Is the tail wagging the dog? The P.C. MLAs are simply not being forceful enough in putting an end to this discriminatory policy or do not care how this hurts healthy-minded seniors!

CALL TO ACTION

If David Alward's senior care policy concerns you, please call David Alward, his Cabinet Ministers, and your MLA directly, demanding they reverse this harmful policy BEFORE the September 22nd provincial election. Please post this flyer on your fridge to better enable you to engage the candidates when they come looking for your vote. Visit our website: www.beingblocked.com for a more in depth overview including numerous media articles and be sure to download this flyer from the website and post to your Facebook page. Writing letters to the editor would also be appreciated.

THE SOLUTION

Return us to the 2012 system that was a resounding success since 1996. It constitutes a win for the general public, as they would have the certainty of a shared cost model with Specialized Care Homes as a viable option. The province wins as these homes can deliver an equally serviced bed at a minimum 50% cost savings versus the large nursing homes (confirmed in off-the-record conversations with DSD officials). Including N.B. Power the provincial debt now exceeds \$18 billion with an annual deficit of \$500 million. **Every taxpayer in the province should be up in arms over the Department of Social Development's misappropriation of tax money.**

If David Alward refuses to reverse this policy which is financially devastating New Brunswick families, I respectfully urge you to:

VOTE NO TO DAVID ALWARD'S SENIOR CARE POLICY on behalf of the Mattison family,



Mark Mattison

Email:

mattison@nbnet.nb.ca

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/beingblocked.com>

Web link: <http://www.beingblocked.com/>

Contact Phone numbers:

Premier David Alward:

506-453-2144 / 506-325-4990

Cabinet Ministers:

Madeleine Dube: 506-735-2528

Craig Leonard: 506-453-5723

Marie – Claude Blais – 506-869-7050

Blaine Higgs: 506-848-5422

Sue Stultz: 506-869-6164

Jody Carr :506-357-4141

Bruce Fitch: 506-869-6117

Hugh Flemming: 506-848-5440

Troy Lifford: 506-449-3902

Danny Soucy: 506-473-7740

Claude Williams: 506-525-4025

Bruce Northrup: 506-432-2686

Paul Robichaud: 506-336-3388

Bruce Fitch: 506-869-6117

Dorothy Sheppard: 506-643-2900

Michael Olscamp:506-364-4774

Robert Trevors: 506-624-2144

Trevor Holder: 506-657-2335

Complete list of MLAs:

<http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/MLAReport1.asp>