

# SILVERA'S PRIORITIES

ADVOCACY POSITIONS



## Priority: 24/7 Home Care Support

### About Silvera for Seniors

Ensuring seniors in our community have a safe and affordable place to call home with the services and supports to meet their lifestyle needs and requirements matters to our Board of Directors, executives, partners, donors, employees, volunteers, residents, their families and the 700 seniors on our waiting list for affordable housing. Silvera is a trusted leader and a strong advocate for affordable (discounted) and well-priced market housing on behalf of seniors.

Silvera is a solutions-oriented community leader and a champion of seniors living in Calgary. We provide a diverse selection of housing with services and supports for independent older adults in 27 buildings in Calgary with 1,750 residents and 400 employees.

We are proud to partner with all orders of government to deliver on our commitment, to provide policy input to all orders of government, and to tirelessly advocate for issues and solutions that allow our seniors to live their best life and age with dignity. Our collective efforts can ensure that Calgary is a great city to age for all.

#### Background:

- In partnership with the Government of Alberta and the City of Calgary, Silvera operates Calgary’s affordable supportive living program with 775 units across seven different communities throughout the city.
- Supportive living communities support older adults that are beginning to find it difficult to manage some the basic daily activities required to remain healthy and independent. With the right supports, such as daily dining, weekly house keeping and access to a variety of life, learning and leisure options, residents in a supportive living environment can remain as independent as possible and age successfully in the community.
- While there are 24/7 non-medical employees on site, Silvera’s supportive living communities do not offer medical services available in long-term care or assisted living.
- As a result of medical circumstances (to varying degrees), over 50% of Silvera’s supportive living residents end up in the hospital via EMS or transferring to a higher level of care.
- Between 2019 and 2020 Silvera supportive living communities averaged 61 EMS calls per month.
- Supportive living provides seniors the best quality of life and is the least expensive accommodation option when compared to long-term care and acute care hospitals:

Silvera Supportive Living (Lodge Program)	\$100/day
Long-term Care Bed	\$180/day
Acute Care Hospital Bed	\$1,500/day

#### Policy Priority:

Silvera requests that the Government of Alberta provide funding for 24/7 onsite home care support in supportive living (lodges). Having 24/7 onsite home care will allow Silvera and other supportive living operators to proactively manage residents’ health care needs and respond to certain health-related situations (within a limited scope) that current employees are not licensed to do. Beyond the obvious quality of life benefits for residents, this would also result in significant financial/cost benefits to the government and taxpayers by achieving the following:

- Keeping many residents from prematurely having to move to more expensive higher levels of care.
- Reducing the number of EMS call from supportive living communities.
- Increasing the utilization of home care workers through more efficient deployment.

