



Health
Office of the Minister

PO Box 488, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2R8 • Telephone 902 424-3377 Fax 902 424-0559 • www.gov.ns.ca

November 8, 2006

Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview
7071 Bayers Road, Suite 319A
Halifax, NS B3L 2C2

Dear Mr. Steele:

Thank you for your letter dated September 25, 2006, concerning Glades Lodge. We understand the concerns of you and your constituents. We share those concerns and recognize that there are aging facilities across the Province that need attention.

How to best meet the long term care needs of Nova Scotians today and in the future is a complex question that has required significant study and consultation. We developed the Continuing Care Strategy for Nova Scotia which was launched in May 2006 after a year of extensive consultations with Nova Scotians. In it are included 1,320 new long term care spaces.

The Department is now planning how those spaces will be allocated. Decisions will be made based upon geographic disparity, population projections, community needs, and current pressures on acute care services. These assessments must first be completed before we are able to make a decision about how to best meet long term care needs in your area.

We are aware of the challenges faced by GEM Health Care Services in delivering care to residents at Glades Lodge. This situation has been difficult for residents and staff. Planning for the replacement of long term care beds in existing aging facilities has been incorporated into our planning process. The Department will be contacting service providers to advise them of the next steps as soon as the details are finalized. We anticipate that will be within the next few months.

Thank you again for bringing these concerns forward on behalf of your constituency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris d'Entremont'.

Chris d'Entremont
Minister