

# Continuing Care Strategy



*Living well in a place you can call home.*

## Deciding Where the New Long-term Care Beds Must Go

By 2010, the Province of Nova Scotia will build 832 new long-term care beds — the first in a commitment of 1,320 new beds over the next 8 years.

A number of factors were considered to determine where these beds are needed most today and in the days to come. A two-step process, guided by three key principles, and based on the most up-to-date evidence and on-the-ground information available was used. Step 1 of the process determined how many beds each of the nine health districts needed. Step 2 determined in which communities the beds should be placed.

### Guiding Principles

1. Nova Scotians should have access to the right kind of care in the right place
2. Our healthcare resources must be distributed according to need, and access to these services should be fair across the province
3. Decisions must be based on the best information available

### Step 1 – By Health District

To determine how many beds each health district needs:

- Information on the future population of seniors by district, differences in the health status of seniors across the province, and the current distribution of long-term care beds in Nova Scotia was inputted into a provincial planning model.
- The most up-to-date data, including population projections based on the Canada Census from Statistics Canada, and health status information on diseases and health conditions associated with frailty from the Canadian Institute for Health Information, was used in the model.
- The findings were compared to information from Nova Scotia government data collection systems such as information on long-term care wait times, the number of hours of service home support clients use, and the number of people waiting in hospital for long-term care.
- This information was used to identify the need for new beds in each health district.

### Step 2 – By Community

To determine which communities the long-term care beds should be in:

- Differences around the province in the supply of beds, demand for beds, and expected changes in the population were reviewed.
- Consultations with the District Health Authorities as well as Continuing Care staff in all the districts were held to get their input into which communities need new beds.
- This information was used to identify the communities where new beds should be located. It was also used to determine the number of beds that should go into each community.