



September 1, 2020

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos,
President of the Treasury Board,
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0R5

by email: President@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Dear Minister Duclos:

Our union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, represents over 60,000 members who work mainly for the Federal Government and its agencies. The overwhelming majority of our members pay into the Public Service Pension Plan. We wish to state our deepest concern for PSP Investments' 100% ownership of Revera Inc. and its long term care and nursing homes.

The present pandemic has caused the death and illness of thousands of Canadians. Nowhere were the deaths and illness greater than in long term care homes where over 81% of deaths occurred¹ including some 281 at Revera Inc. homes.² A study by the Canadian Institute for Health Information also shows that more than 9,650 LTC staff members have been infected by COVID-19, which is more than 10% of the country's total cases and 9 staff deaths have occurred.³

The terrible results have been found to be worse in privately owned homes. A recent study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found evidence that for-profit LTC homes "have larger COVID-19 outbreaks and more resident deaths from COVID-19 than non-profit and municipal homes".⁴

¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information, Pandemic Experience in the Long-Term Care Sector: How Does Canada Compare With Other Countries?, Ottawa, 2020. https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/covid-19-rapid-response-long-term-care-snapshot-en.pdf?emktg_lang=en&emktg_order=1

² Emma Paling and Sherina Harris "COVID-19 Has Killed 164 At Revera Inc.'s Care Homes. Their Families Want Answers", Huffington Post, May 15, 2020 https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/coronavirus-deaths-Revera-Inc.-homes-lawsuit_ca_5ebd59b5c5b655620b1395ee

³ Canadian Institute for Health Information, Pandemic Experience in the Long-Term Care Sector: How Does Canada Compare With Other Countries?, Ottawa, 2020. https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/covid-19-rapid-response-long-term-care-snapshot-en.pdf?emktg_lang=en&emktg_order=1

⁴ Nathan M. Stall, Aaron Jones, Kevin A. Brown, Paula A. Rochon and Andrew P. Costa,

We believe that privately owned long term care homes in Canada should be moved into the public sector. PSP Investments should not be making profits for our pensions from LTC homes. PSP Investments should divest itself from Revera Inc. and negotiate to transfer administration and ownership to provincial governments in each province. This policy is supported by 2/3 of Canadians according to a recent Angus Reid poll.⁵

In a very recent February 2020 investment policy, PSP Investments claims how “environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) factors are incorporated into the PSP Investments’ investment practices.” PSP Investments states that “At the center of our responsible investment approach is the investment belief that identifying, monitoring and capitalizing on ESG factors is material to long-term investment performance. As a long-term investor, we believe that managing ESG factors contributes to a better total fund long-term performance, by helping in finding new opportunities, steering our capital toward more attractive areas and mitigating key risks.”⁶ The record and continued presence in Revera run counter to this policy.

The continuation of private ownership of Revera Inc. homes by PSP Investments could also result in negative consequences beyond residents and staff but also to the PSP Investments and our membership, as several class action suits have been launched. These suits include a \$50-million class action lawsuit which has been launched against Revera Inc. Retirement Living on behalf of the families of COVID-19 victims at the company's long-term care facilities in Ontario⁷ and one against Revera Inc. for McKenzie Towne centre’s COVID-19 response in Calgary.⁸ In August 2020, yet another \$25 million lawsuit was launched in Ottawa against Revera and its ownership of Carlingview Manor where 60 deaths occurred.⁹ These suits underline the quality of care and staffing as being responsible for resident deaths and illness spread.

Our members are and have been responsible for the delivery of many of the new programs set up to help Canadians during the pandemic. Other PIPSC members are responsible for securing the health of Canadians and the food safety programs as scientists and medical professionals. Coming out of the pandemic, we believe that we can create a better health and safety environment for all Canadians. And this means dramatically improving the situation of our long term care homes for residents and for employees. For PSP Investments, moving to divest

“For-profit long-term care homes and the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks and resident deaths”, CMAJ July 22, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.201197>

⁵ COVID-19 and the extended care crisis: two-thirds support government takeovers of long-term care facilities, May 25, 2020 <http://angusreid.org/covid19-long-term-care/>

⁶ PSP Investments, Responsible Investment Policy, February 2020, https://www.investpsp.com/media/filer_public/02-we-are-psp/02-investing-responsibly/content-2/documents/Responsible_Investment_Policy.PDF

⁷ [Julianne Hazlewood](#), Families of Ont. COVID-19 victims launch \$50M lawsuit against Revera Inc. Retirement Living, CBC News, May 01, 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/Revera-Inc.-lawsuit-covid-19-victims-1.5552171>

⁸ [Emily Mertz](#), “Class action lawsuit filed against Revera Inc. for McKenzie Towne centre’s COVID-19 response”, Global News, May 13, 2020 <https://globalnews.ca/news/6939547/class-action-lawsuit-filed-against-Revera-Inc.-for-mckenzie-towne-centres-covid-19-response/>

⁹ Taylor Blewett, “Class action lawsuit seeking \$25M for Carlingview Manor residents, families” Ottawa Citizen, Aug 12, 2020 <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/class-action-lawsuit-seeking-25m-for-carlingview-manor-residents-families>

ownership of Revera Inc. and negotiate to integrate its homes into the public health system along with other private LTC homes would be an important step in this direction.

I look forward to your views on this matter.

Please note that we are sending copies of this letter to Neil Cunningham, President and Chief Executive Officer, PSP Investments as well as to provincial health ministers in all provinces with Revera homes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debi Daviau', with a stylized, cursive script.

Debi Daviau
President, PIPSC