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NEWS RELEASE

Inferior residential care for seniors linked to for-profit facilities

New study finds type of ownership impacts quality of care provided

Montreal – The type of ownership of residential long-term care facilities for frail seniors is a determinant of the quality of care provided, according to a new study published by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP). The study reviews the US and Canadian research on the ownership and quality of services in these facilities, and concludes that for-profit facilities are less likely to provide quality care than nonprofit or public facilities.

“While the link between for-profit facility ownership and inferior care does not imply that all for-profit facilities provide poor care, the evidence suggests that, as a group, such facilities are less likely to provide good care than nonprofit or public facilities,” writes Margaret McGregor, author of the study, *Residential Long-Term Care for Canada’s Seniors: Nonprofit, For-Profit or Does it Matter?*

McGregor makes several recommendations related to funding and delivery to ensure quality of services. She suggests policies to keep the financing and delivery of new residential care capacity in the public and nonprofit sectors. Regardless of ownership, legislated minimum staffing levels should be adopted and adequate funding should be provided to support those levels. Governments and long-term care facilities should be held to account by making information publicly available on direct care staffing levels, inspection reports and other quality indicators.

“As the elderly population increases, the need for residential long-term care will be greater and governments will be under growing pressure to ensure better quality services,” warns McGregor.

The study, Residential Long-Term Care for Canadian Seniors: Nonprofit, For-Profit or Does It Matter? can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site (www.irpp.org).

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For more details or to schedule an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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