Background information

Baycrest Health Sciences
Submitted to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

May 11, 2016
Baycrest Health Sciences

Baycrest Health Sciences is a global leader in geriatric residential living, healthcare, research, innovation and education, with a special focus on aging and brain health.

Baycrest is a member of HealthCare CAN, the national voice of healthcare organizations and hospitals across Canada.

Fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, Baycrest is an academic health sciences centre providing exemplary care for older adults with complex medical, cognitive and behavioural needs. Its 23 acre campus serves approximately 1,500 people each day; operates a 262-bed complex continuing care and rehabilitation hospital; 472-bed long-term care home; 192-suite assisted living facility; 120-suite independent living building; and a range of community and ambulatory programs. More than 1,800 staff, 2,000 volunteers and 1,500 students serve the needs of older adults each year on the Baycrest campus. The organization is renowned for its highly specialized expertise in serving those living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

In 2015, and for the second review cycle in a row, Accreditation Canada awarded Baycrest Health Sciences Accreditation with “Exemplary Standing” – the highest possible standing granted. Baycrest is one of only 60 organizations in Canada to receive this prestigious designation, having also been recognized with 5 Leading Practice awards honouring uniquely innovative, client-centered practices that demonstrably enhance the wellbeing of older adults.

Baycrest is unique in the world, combining a comprehensive system of care for older patients with one of the world’s Top 5 research institutes in cognitive neuroscience with a global network of tele-educational programs, and unrivaled innovation and commercialization capacity. The Baycrest Rotman Research Institute (RRI) has more than 380 research studies underway related to brain health and aging.

Canadian Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation

Baycrest is now home to the Canadian Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation (CC-ABHI). Thanks to a $123.5 million combined investment from the federal and provincial governments, Baycrest Foundation and 40 leading industry, academic, public and not-for-profit partners, it operates as a national hub and network bringing together science, healthcare and industry partners.

CC-ABHI is generously supported by a $42 million, 5-year investment from the Public Health Agency of Canada and will act as a solution accelerator – dedicated to the development,
validation, commercialization, dissemination and adoption of brain health and seniors care products and best practices. These will represent the most promising and essential solutions addressing unmet brain health and seniors’ care needs, including (but not limited to) medical devices, information technologies, wellness and digital health solutions, healthcare delivery practices, and practitioner and caregiver training and support.

Baycrest Centre for Learning Research and Innovation in Long-term Care

The Government of Ontario has recognized Baycrest’s leadership in senior care by choosing it as one of three Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care (CLRI). Baycrest along with the Bruyère and Schlegel CLRIs employ innovative, educational and experiential approaches to train and develop frontline health care providers to meet the needs of long-term care residents. A key focus of these centres is to equip long-term care staff with the training and expertise required to care for residents living with advanced dementia.

Behavioural Supports for Seniors Program

Baycrest leads the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network’s Behavioural Supports for Seniors Program. This program encompasses community outreach teams deployed in regional long-term care homes, a Transitional Behavioural Support Unit at Baycrest and the provision of continuing staff education.

Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging

In September 2014, the federal government announced that 11 researchers from Baycrest and its world-renowned RRI would join the newly established Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, a national initiative to accelerate scientific understanding of dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases – an effort that will lead to more effective treatments and prevention strategies for Canadians.

Facts about dementia

Roughly 750,000 Canadians are living with dementia. This number is expected to nearly double to 1.4 million by 2031.

Nearly 74% of Canadians know someone affected by dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

The combined direct (medical) and indirect (lost earnings) cost of dementia in Canada is $33 billion. This number will skyrocket to $293 billion a year by 2040.

In 2011, caregivers spent 444 million unpaid hours a year looking after friends and loved ones diagnosed with dementia.
This represents some $11 billion in lost income and 227,760 full-time jobs. By 2040, caregivers will be devoting 1.2 billion unpaid hours a year.

(Sources: Alzheimer’s Society Canada; "A new way of looking at the impact of dementia in Canada" [2012]; Alzheimer Society of Canada.)