

Our Purpose and Our Goals

DHA's stated purposes are these:

1. to strengthen understanding and cooperation between denominational health care facilities and government,
2. to ensure that the multicultural and spiritual needs of our patients and residents are adequately provided for,
3. to continue a forum for sharing ideas and networking,
4. to promote our uniqueness and our communities of interest,
5. to disseminate information in relation to our goals and objectives, and
6. to maintain governance of our facilities.

To these ends, our board of directors works to ensure that the Minister of Health and other government-related bodies are apprised of specific issues that affect our members. To promote our members in having an effective voice in discussions and decision-making in health care issues, we are attentive to maintaining fair representation with groups such as the *Health Employers Association of BC*, the *Health Human Resources Advisory Council* and the *Health Ministry's Security Working Group*.

While our facilities have the protection of the Master Agreement, owners must also enter into affiliation agreements with their respective regional health authorities. DHA supports our member owners in reaching agreements that are fair to both parties and are in keeping with the Master Agreement.

We also continue to inform and educate people about denominational health care in BC.

DHA Members and the facilities they operate, own and/or sponsor:

- *Adventist Health Care Home Society* (Rest Haven Lodge in Sidney)
- *Baptist Housing Society* (Central Care Home and Mount Edwards Court in Victoria)
- *Bishop of Victoria* (Saint Joseph's General Hospital in Comox)
- *Broadway Pentecostal Care Association* (Broadway Pentecostal Lodge in Vancouver)
- *Columbus Long Term Care Society* (Columbus Residence in Vancouver)
- *Calling Foundation* (Blenheim Lodge in Vancouver)
- *Evergreen Baptist Society* (Evergreen Baptist Home in White Rock)
- *Fair Haven United Church Homes Society* (Fair Haven United Church Homes in Burnaby and Vancouver)
- *Good Samaritan Society* (Christenson Village in Gibson's, Hillside Village and Pioneer Lodge in Salmon Arm, Mountainview Village in Kelowna, Village by the Station in Penticton, and a new facility in New Westminster and in Vernon.
- *Governing Council of the Salvation Army* (Buchanan Lodge in New Westminster and Sunset Lodge in Victoria)
- *Hope Reformed Church Society* (Westminster House in Surrey)
- *Jewish Home for the Aged in British Columbia* (Louis Brier Home and Hospital)
- *Kopernik Foundation* (Kopernik Lodge in Vancouver)
- *Luther Court Society* (Luther Court in Victoria)
- *Lutheran Senior Citizens' Housing Society* (Zion Park Manor in Surrey)
- *Marie Esther Society* (Mount Saint Mary Hospital in Victoria)
- *Mennonite Benevolent Society* (Menno Home and Menno Hospital in Abbotsford)
- *Mennonite Central Committee Supportive Care Services* (Valhaven Lodge in Abbotsford)
- *Mennonite Intermediate Care Home Society* (Pinegrove Place in Richmond)
- *Providence Health Care* (Holy Family Hospital, Marion Hospice, Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Vincent's Langara and Brock Farhni, Saint Paul's Hospital and Youville Residence in Vancouver)
- *Saint Jude's Anglican Home Society* (Saint Jude's Anglican Home in Vancouver)
- *Saint Michael's Society* (Saint Michael's Centre in Burnaby)
- *Tabor Home Society* (Tabor Home in Clearbrook)
- *United Church of Canada* (Bella Coola General Hospital in Bella Coola, RW Large Memorial Hospital in Waglisla and Wrinch Memorial Hospital in Hazelton)

Denominational Health Association

"Caring for the Whole Person"



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Our History

In the early 1990's, faced with a perceived threat to ownership and governance, a group of owners, administrators and board members who were associated with religiously affiliated health care facilities in British Columbia first came together. Representative of this group subsequently negotiated with the provincial government a Master Agreement that recognizes the respective religious missions and values of the founding owners and sponsors of our health care facilities in the province. This legal agreement is an enduring covenant that commits our members to work as partners with health authorities in achieving health reform goals in BC.

This group became the *Denominational Health Association* in March of 1995. It represents the owners of faith-based health care facilities with government.

The members of the association are the twenty-four owners of forty-one facilities in BC. The *DHA* board of directors is comprised of representatives of these owners.



Our members come from twelve different religious denominations: Anglican, Baptist, Hope Reform, Jewish, Lutheran, Mennonite, Pentecostal, Plymouth Brethren, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist and United.

According to the most recent census figures available, the people in these thirteen denominations make up more than 53% of the population of our province.

Our Vision

DHA members are committed to bringing a spiritual and religious values-based dimension to the provision of health services. Spirituality has a positive effect on healing and plays an important role in people's lives as they strive to find meaning and purpose.

Our Associations' members have a long history of faith-based health care in BC. We are committed to preserving and protecting the values of the founders of the first health facilities in BC who saw and responded to the needs of the sick, the elderly, the poor and the marginalized in our communities by providing compassionate and professional care to all, regardless of their ability to pay or of their beliefs.

DHA members value the contribution of volunteers in health care. Our governing boards are comprised of committed and unpaid members of our local communities who give selflessly of their time and professional expertise. Their goal is to operate facilities that honour the interrelatedness of life, that respect the religious values and spiritual traditions all British Columbians and that promote an integrated and holistic approach to health and health services within the context of religious values of compassion and justice, as well as the five principles enshrined in the Canada Health Act: accessibility, comprehensiveness, portability, universality and public administration.



Our Guiding Principles

1. Life at all stages is sacred. It must be accorded sanctity and dignity, as we believe it is created in the image of God. It is a primary and fundamental good of the human person.
2. Health care is a meeting between trust and conscience – the trust of one who is ill and suffering, and hence in need, who entrusts himself to the conscience of another who can help him in his need. The touchstone of this conscience, for denominational facilities, is a faith in God.
3. Health is holistic. It is integral to community and comprises physical, mental, social and spiritual elements in a dynamic relationship.
4. Our approach is to witness by our actions. We respect the rights of others to hold their own beliefs.
5. We support standards that are uniform as a part of the health care delivery system. Standards of service rather than governance of providers should be the operative philosophy.
6. We believe that methods of containing and controlling costs are an essential element of provincial health policy.
7. We promote spiritual and mental health as well as physical health.
8. We believe that the principle of a better ordering of a human society is critical. Social justice offers the principle of subsidiarity in which problems are addressed at the most immediate level, assuring efficiency and the empowerment of people. It also recognizes that, at times, problems are of such magnitude that they can only be addressed at the highest levels of government.

What Constitutes Denominational Identity in Health Care?

For Christians, health care is a ministry in which we are called to serve with attentiveness to the spirit. Similarly, the Jewish Book of Prayer speaks of “*refuat hanefesh, refuat haguf*” which means “*healing the soul, healing the body*”.

Our obligation in faith-based health care is three-fold:

To the Community

Our primary concern is to identify community needs and respond in a way that advances the community's overall health status.

To the Individuals We Serve

Recognizing that people have the right to basic health care, we open our doors and engage our services to everyone, including the most vulnerable, seeking always to ensure that everyone is treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

To our Employees

We respect people's dignity by developing a work environment that promotes trust, cooperation, participation and innovation. We encourage people to reach their full potential and to be responsible and accountable. We treat people fairly in all aspects of employment. We invite people to be committed to the values of denominational health care and to collaborate in its mission to contribute to a better ordering of human society.