

What are the benefits of membership with ICcer for continuing care providers?

The Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICcer) is a network of post-secondary institutions, continuing care provider organizations, and regulatory bodies collaborating to enhance continuing care for Albertans. We do that by working with academics, researchers, educators, providers, and students. We are often asked, especially when recruiting new members, to describe the value added by ICcer.

Overall Benefits

“ICcer provides a unique forum to identify and discuss emerging continuing care issues with other providers, and also with researchers and educators. By having representatives from the three key sectors in continuing care as equal members around the table, the priorities we identify and address are relevant to all.” Aruna Mitra, Senior Director, Bethany Care Society (2016)

ICcer’s main value is the networking opportunities that it provides. There can be a single point of contact for providers, academic institutions, and researchers, all of whom have the prime goal of making our continuing care system as effective as it can be.

As a network, ICcer differs from other centres and institutes. Those other entities have an ownership component that ICcer does not have. No one “owns” ICcer; individual partner autonomy is not relinquished, rather it is enhanced by association with others’ efforts. As

each partner is added, additional synergy occurs. The nature of interactions, priorities, possible projects and collaborations are enhanced by the interaction of the partners.

Perhaps the ***most significant ICcer value is that big aspirations, like developing the highest quality continuing care system, cannot be accomplished by any one segment or organization alone.*** They cannot be obtained even by large research centres. It isn’t about the amount of money available; it is about the will to solve problems. A network like ICcer that requires only a commitment to a cause has

“ICcer is a tremendous resource. It’s an amazing network of providers and educators committed to using research and evidence to improve practice in continuing care.” Dwight Nelson, COO, Carewest (2016)

the opportunity to make a difference. ICcer does not limit the activities of its partners nor duplicate existing activities. Its major goals are to link organizations, activities, and sectors of the continuing care system.

Benefits to Provider Organizations

“Sherwood Care is a small organization and to be relevant and current, joining ICcer was a good business decision and a great opportunity to expand networks and knowledge to our care staff.” Kathy Fortunat, Director of Care, Sherwood Care (2016)

All continuing care provider organizations strive to provide the best care possible to residents. It can be difficult, particularly for smaller organizations, to keep up to date with current best practices and research findings. ICcer membership provides a forum to network and discuss practice issues with other providers. By sitting at the same table as post-secondary institutions, providers are able to articulate what they see as the strengths and weaknesses of

pre-service education, as well as continuing education needs.

Accreditation Canada’s Qmentum Program expects a provider organization to be involved in research that is directly linked to its strategic directions, quality improvement, and best practice. Skills learned through research are applicable to all areas of accreditation. ICcer membership provides opportunity for provider organizations and staff to participate in research activities and to learn more about how to develop, conduct, and disseminate research. Without these opportunities, providers would have difficulty in the accreditation process.

The Community Needs Driven Research Network

The value ICCER provides has been recognized by Alberta Health. In 2014 Alberta Health awarded ICCER a 3-year operating grant in order to support the Community Needs Driven Research Network activities that were started with funding in 2012 from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

Through the consultation activities of the Community Needs Driven Research Network, ICCER identifies the research and education needs from the perspective of continuing care providers, and then works to encourage researchers and educators to meet those needs.

“Excel Society continues to be indebted to ICCER for providing opportunities for learning and growing as an organization. It is not just education and training, but application of the learnings in everyday activities by staff at all levels of the organization.” Brad Perkins, President & CEO, Excel Society (2016)

“I am astonished by the amount of new information in this event and wonder "where I have been: that I heard/learned so little with an organization that I thought was "keeping abreast".”

“Good opportunity to meet and mix with others I wouldn't normally have. I really enjoyed talking with people and being able to have an open discussion and bounce ideas off of each other. I look forward to attending more networking events in the future.”
Participant comments.

The ICCER Secretariat supports teams of researchers/educators/ providers/ decision makers by identifying research funding opportunities and by helping to develop research proposals and educational activities. The level of support given to teams can vary.

ICCER has also forged connections with similar institutions/organizations within Canada, such as the Atlantic Institute on Aging, and is developing relationships with international organizations related to aging and continuing care.

The ICCER Secretariat is the ‘glue’ that holds ICCER together. Through the work of the Secretariat, members keep up to date on activities within Alberta, across Canada, and around the world. The network is supported through social media activities, presentations at provincial/national conferences, and educational opportunities. ICCER normally holds two major education events each year with opportunity to participate across Alberta, and Canada, by videoconference. We also host events in Edmonton and Calgary that allow researchers, providers, and government policy people to network and discuss issues.

For more information contact ICCER at 780-248-1504 or admin@iccer.ca.



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