

Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission Meeting

Dr. Diana Anderson and Ansar S. Ahmed
on Wednesday, February 10, 2021



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6	MEETING OF THE LONG-TERM CARE
7	COVID-19 COMMISSION
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15	--- Held via Zoom Videoconferencing, with all
16	participants attending remotely, on the 10th day
17	of February, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
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1 BEFORE:

2 The Honourable Frank N. Marrocco, Lead
3 Commissioner

4 Angela Coke, Commissioner

5 Dr. Jack Kitts, Commissioner

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8 PRESENTERS:

9 Dr. Diana Anderson, MD, ACHA, Founder, DoChitect
10 Principal, Jacobs Geriatric Neurology Fellow, VA
11 Boston Healthcare System & Harvard Medical
12 School

13 Ansar S. Ahmed, P.Eng. Vice President, Business
14 Development Jacobs

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17 PARTICIPANTS:

18 Alison Drummond, Assistant Deputy Minister,
19 Long-Term Care Commission Secretariat

20 Ida Bianchi, Senior Legal Counsel, Long-Term
21 Care Commission Secretariat

22 Derek Lett, Policy Director, Long-Term Care
23 Commission Secretariat

24 Jessica Franklin, Policy Director, Long-Term
25 Care Commission Secretariat

1 PARTICIPANTS: (continued)
2 Adriana Diaz Choconta Senior Policy Analyst
3 Long-Term Care Commission
4 Rose Bianchini, Senior Policy Analyst, Long-Term
5 Care Commission Secretariat
6 Angela Walwyn, Senior Policy Analyst, Long-Term
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ALSO PRESENT:
Helen Martineau, Stenographer/Transcriptionist

1 --- Upon commencing at 9:00 a.m.

2 IDA BIANCHI: Good morning,
3 Commissioners. This morning you will be hearing
4 from Dr. Diana Anderson and Mr. Ansar Ahmed.

5 Dr. Anderson is a health care
6 architect. She often refers to herself as the
7 Dochitect, and has a website of that name. She
8 is an internist and a geriatrician.

9 Diana combines educational
10 professional experience in both medicine and
11 architecture.

12 She's a co-founder of the Clinicians
13 for Design Group, an international network of
14 leaders that seek to inspire and accelerate the
15 design environments and systems.

16 She is also a principal at Jacobs, a
17 firm of engineers, architects and scientists,
18 and provides thought leadership at the
19 intersection of design and health.

20 Currently she's a Fellow in geriatric
21 neurology at the VA Boston Health Care System
22 where she studies the impact of the built
23 environment on cognitive impairment.

24 Mr. Ahmed is an engineer and the
25 vice-president at Jacobs, and Market Lead for

1 the health care sector in Canada. He's an
2 engineering professional with over thirty years
3 of public and private sector experience
4 delivering infrastructure projects across
5 Canada.

6 He worked for twenty years in the
7 Ontario Public Service, including as a Senior
8 Manager in charge of intergovernmental affairs,
9 strategic policy issues and media.

10 Right. So they both have
11 presentations for you and I understand
12 that Dr. Anderson is going first. So without
13 further delay, Dr. Anderson, would you like to
14 start your PowerPoint presentation?

15 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Please, first
16 name Diana. I just spent time in California and
17 it's all flip flops and first names.

18 Ansar, would you like to go first?

19 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
20 We would like to spend some time in California
21 but it might be controversial for us to do so.

22 ANSAR AHMED: Thank you very much for
23 that, Ida, for that introduction. Hopefully you
24 can see my screen.

25 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:

1 We can.

2 ANSAR AHMED: After those
3 introductions you'll know that I'm going to keep
4 my comments rather short because I think it's
5 actually Dr. Anderson's area of expertise that
6 is going to be the most relevant to the
7 Commission.

8 I'll just start off by thanking the
9 Commission for this opportunity to come and
10 speak to you, for Dr. Anderson and I to make
11 this presentation. And on behalf of the
12 leadership team at Jacobs I just want to convey
13 our gratitude for the work that the Commission
14 and Commission staff are doing on behalf of the
15 province and on behalf of all Ontarians.

16 So hopefully what Dr. Anderson and I
17 have to say here today will help to inform your
18 work and lead to some successful outcomes.

19 I'm going to be looking over because
20 for some reason I have three monitors and not a
21 single one lines up with my camera.

22 I think the key message that's going
23 to come across today is that we're at a very
24 unique point and time right now, given the
25 situation that the Province finds itself in, and

1 particularly in the long-term care sector, there
2 is a unique opportunity. Because there's an
3 alignment of purpose and an alignment of certain
4 intentions on behalf of everyone. I don't think
5 anyone is disputing what has occurred in the
6 long-term care sector, it's just a question
7 of -- from our part, what we go about -- what we
8 do about it.

9 And I think one of the challenges that
10 we have, frankly, is that a lot of the public
11 discourse has been, as I mentioned to Ida
12 before, is -- has been in looking in the rear
13 view mirror. And unfortunately when passions
14 run high there's always this move to try to
15 assign blame.

16 And that's really not where we're
17 coming from, we're coming from the perspective
18 of looking at where opportunities exist to make
19 things better, and in particular when you
20 consider the level of investments that are
21 planned by the provincial government. I mean,
22 it's no small undertaking to say that you're
23 going to spend in the billions to try and
24 improve a situation in long-term care; and we
25 want to make sure that that leads to making the

1 right decisions and the right investment
2 choices, and that they're being targeted into
3 the right areas.

4 And with that in mind we actually,
5 within Jacobs, held a round table back, I guess
6 it's about two and a half weeks now on the 21st,
7 where we brought together some of the thought
8 leadership, colleagues of Dr. Anderson, and we
9 held a round table and we ostensibly referred to
10 it as "Reimagining Elder Care in a Post-COVID
11 Ontario". And the session went very well.

12 We've mentioned it to Ida and her team
13 and we're looking forward to some of the initial
14 outcomes being properly framed hopefully by the
15 end of this week. And we'll be in a position to
16 share that, those initial findings with the
17 Commission formally hopefully next week.

18 But in the meantime, some of the
19 things that did come up to the 21st --

20 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:

21 That would be very helpful from where
22 we're coming from, Mr. Ahmed, so thank you for
23 that.

24 ANSAR AHMED: I appreciate that.
25 That's great.

1 And at this point I'm going to
2 apologize because this I can't do off memory so
3 I'm going to actually go to the slide here.

4 So a couple of key takeaways for us
5 really was the fact that there was a need for
6 balanced investments. One of the key things we
7 keep hearing about is certainly investments
8 within the sort of brick-and-mortar solutions of
9 the long-term care homes.

10 And one of the key points for us was
11 the need to make sure we balance, or at least
12 keep in mind what solutions can be had from the
13 home-care models.

14 And also there's a whole suite, which
15 frankly I wasn't aware of, but there's a whole
16 suite of inter-regionary solutions, particularly
17 Dr. Anderson is aware of them and brought them
18 to light from her experience in the States.
19 Things like the all-inclusive care models, the
20 PACE models and the adult-day-health and
21 care-services model. So those are things that
22 we think should certainly be looked at.

23 The importance of maintaining the
24 characteristic of home, and I fall into this
25 trap myself often as well in referring to those

1 who are in the long-term care homes as
2 "patients".

3 And some of them -- these are in fact
4 their homes. They have given up their previous
5 life and moved themselves into these homes. And
6 it's so important to ensure that, particularly
7 now, as you see more hospitals coming in and
8 taking over long-term care homes that they don't
9 inadvertently slip into more of a clinical
10 setting as opposed to maintaining that sort
11 of -- those sort of characteristics of home,
12 which are so important.

13 Acknowledging the fact that a large
14 number of people, and I don't have the data
15 to -- that I can present right now, but
16 certainly anecdotally a lot of people that live
17 in long-term care homes frankly don't want to be
18 there. If things were left to them, if they had
19 a viable choice or an alternative they certainly
20 would prefer to age in place in their own homes
21 that they've known.

22 We looked at -- now for my part I'm
23 the Vice-Chair as well of the Board of Directors
24 of Southlake Regional Health Centre. And we
25 were -- on behalf of the Province we piloted

1 Southlake@home, which was a home-based care
2 model.

3 And I think the Commission actually
4 spoke to Shirlee Sharkey from St. Elizabeth
5 Health, SE Health.

6 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
7 We did.

8 ANSAR AHMED: And she was pivotal in
9 terms of working with our CEO in driving that
10 model. And we piloted it and it was extremely
11 successful.

12 So we're talking about scaling up
13 those sort of models to see what can be done in
14 terms of age-in-place options for the elder
15 community.

16 The emphatic care model, and really
17 this sort of dovetails in a number of different
18 areas. For me, from an engineering perspective
19 and from an infrastructure delivery perspective,
20 it really comes down to what do you reward as
21 you try to push these investments out the door?

22 So we certainly understand that
23 underpinning, you know, \$1.75 billion investment
24 is going to be a whole bunch of procurements to
25 try to get this money in these investments out

1 the door. Well, what do you reward? Are you
2 rewarding solutions and approaches from design
3 builders that basically continue to perpetuate
4 that overdensification of these care homes? Or
5 do you reward the empathic care models that
6 actually head you in the opposite direction and
7 put primacy to the individuals and to their
8 care?

9 IDA BIANCHI: Ansar, can I interrupt
10 you for a minute and ask a question?

11 ANSAR AHMED: Absolutely.

12 IDA BIANCHI: Can you clarify what you
13 mean by "empathic design concepts". I'll tell
14 you that the Commission's heard about models
15 like the butterfly model. We've heard about
16 them as culture-change-movement models, that's
17 how they've been described to us by other folks
18 that have come before the Commission. Is that
19 what you're talking about?

20 ANSAR AHMED: So I'll let Diana speak
21 to this. Actually I won't say anything I'll let
22 Diana speak to it.

23 IDA BIANCHI: Okay.

24 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Ida, I think that
25 that's appropriate. And I think empathic design

1 encompasses essentially designing with the users
2 in mind.

3 And Steven Verderber, from the
4 University of Toronto, mentioned this and is
5 quite a big supporter. Here at MIT at the age
6 lab they have an aging suit and an architect or
7 an administrator can put that on and really
8 experience what it's like to age, see poorly due
9 to cataracts, have aching joints, things like
10 that. And I think that really gets to the crux
11 of empathic design, really understanding the
12 users that are going to be using the space.

13 IDA BIANCHI: So it's something bigger
14 than the models we've heard about.

15 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: I think empathic
16 design is encompassed in something like the
17 butterfly model that really exemplifies feeling
18 over thinking, which may be something that gets
19 lost with aging and cognitive impairment. The
20 feeling is still there, and empathic design
21 would appreciate that and highlight that.

22 IDA BIANCHI: Thank you.

23 ANSAR AHMED: I think the best sort of
24 correlation I can give is to the AODA, the
25 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities

1 Act. And one of the things that as engineers,
2 as practitioners we find is that many people are
3 excellent at looking at the Act and following
4 the Act, the stipulations within the Act.

5 They don't truly understand. They
6 don't truly feel what it feels like to actually
7 sit in a wheelchair and try to navigate downtown
8 Toronto and the new builds. And that's what I
9 think empathic is trying to say, until you are
10 able to put yourself in the perspective of the
11 end users you really haven't grasped what the
12 outcome of your design decisions are going to be
13 on their life going forward.

14 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: Let me just
15 ask a question about that.

16 ANSAR AHMED: Absolutely.

17 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: It's
18 probably more designs and models as opposed to
19 design or model. Because the patient, or the
20 resident, or the person in long-term care
21 requires anywhere from just assistance with
22 activities of daily living to fairly complex
23 healthcare, and everything in between.

24 And so we're struggling with the
25 resident versus patient; the facility for

1 healthcare versus the home, the comfortable
2 home. And we actually discussed the other day
3 that the model of care must be multiple models
4 to meet the needs of these multiple patients.

5 And we're wondering if it's time and
6 we're at a crossroads where the patient, and
7 this is what we've heard and I'd like your views
8 on it, Diana, that 85 percent of patients in
9 long-term care today, I don't know whether it's
10 Ontario or Canada, have a cognitive dysfunction,
11 some degree of cognitive dysfunction and more
12 than 70 percent have dementia.

13 Is it out of line to think that if you
14 design these homes and staff the staff with
15 skill sets to manage the patient with cognitive
16 dysfunction you would at least have a model that
17 was consistent for 85 percent of the residents?

18 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Yes, and I heard
19 that in Quebec it's about 80 percent so that
20 sounds about right for Canada as a whole.

21 I would agree with that, with the
22 caveat that as we move forward with our design
23 concepts we need to align them in tandem with
24 the clinical advances.

25 Here in the United States we are on a

1 quest for the disease modifying therapy for
2 Alzheimer disease in particular. So while I
3 think, yes, that would address a majority of
4 people in these environments I think we also
5 have to be cognizant of the fact that I hope
6 one day soon we'll be able to potentially treat
7 cognitive impairments, and how will the built
8 environment adapt to that advancement?

9 But I'll show some examples of
10 dementia villages and methods we've used in
11 long-term care to help with cognitive impairment
12 so that my be helpful.

13 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: Thank you.

14 ANSAR AHMED: And then the last point
15 really is to say that with these investments
16 that the government is taking on that we think
17 there's an overarching need to take a
18 programmatic approach.

19 I think the task at hand is, frankly,
20 too big and the outcomes too sensitive to be
21 taking a one-of, iterative type of approach.
22 And rather I think it's time to step back and
23 say, okay, at a program level, much as you'd do
24 with other infrastructure assets such as schools
25 or hospitals in general, or frankly even bridges

1 and roads, step back, take a programmatic
2 approach and ensure that high level consistency.

3 In terms of investment decisions, I
4 think the key thing here was that there was an
5 urgent need to pivot. Again, there's a lot of
6 investment dollars that the province wants to
7 push out the door. And so far what we've seen
8 from the procurements that have come out
9 already, they seem to be taking sort of a -- and
10 I apologize if this comes out negatively, it's
11 not intended that way, but a bit of a
12 scattergram approach. And that might work in
13 certain circumstances but not when you're
14 talking about a sector that's so outcome driven
15 as long-term care, where there's a need to get
16 into each one of these areas.

17 And again, I don't want to take away
18 from -- time away from Dr. Anderson's
19 presentation so I'm going to just leave this up
20 for a moment, and this will be available to the
21 Commission afterwards.

22 And lastly, just for your
23 consideration, is some of the thoughts that came
24 out from the round table participants talking
25 about some of the areas that need some urgent

1 attention. Again Dr. Verderber's concept around
2 the importance of architecture and design to
3 healthcare outcomes. I think it's just so
4 important, and that frankly underpins a lot of
5 what Dr. Anderson is going to be speaking about.

6 So with that, Diana, why don't I stop
7 sharing my screen and I let you take over.

8 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Everything good
9 with the slides?

10 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
11 We can see it.

12 DR. DIANA ANDERSON:

13 So thank you, Ansar. I think that was
14 a great introduction. I'm very excited to be
15 here and talk about my career's work of blending
16 these two, especially in the area of long-term
17 care and geriatrics, which is my specialty in
18 terms of both realms.

19 And I'm very pleased that the
20 Commissioners think that architecture and the
21 built environment is important. And I'd like to
22 convince you in the next few minutes that
23 architectural design is a determinant of health
24 and a very important one.

25 At the University of Toronto Medical

1 School we have a course called "Determinants of
2 Community Health" and not once did we touch on
3 the built environment. It's really been
4 underlooked in terms of its importance, I
5 believe.

6 So I have a number of images and some
7 empirical data to show you. Please feel free to
8 interrupt as we go. So I ask myself a lot
9 through my lectures and my writings either how
10 we can bridge the gap between these two fields
11 of both medicine and architecture? I do think
12 architecture and design are key components of
13 health, as I've just said.

14 But how do we bridge the gap between
15 the perspectives of those who design them, the
16 architects, the politicians, the people who fund
17 these buildings, and the people who inhabit
18 them? And I think that's a real challenge. And
19 this hybrid model, I think, can help trying to
20 blend career models to understand both fields.

21 I also think about the moral
22 imperative we have to make sure that these
23 buildings do no harm. I've very cognizant of
24 doing no harm as a physician, but as an
25 architect I think inadvertently our buildings

1 can cause harm.

2 And I did a bioethics fellowship here
3 at Harvard a few years ago, not as a third
4 career but really as a glue to sort of solidify
5 architecture and medicine together as a model.
6 The bioethics of built space has largely been
7 understudied and really overlooked, I would say,
8 and COVID has brought to light the impact of
9 buildings on people's health.

10 And so I thought we should go back in
11 history just for a couple of slides. Because
12 it's interesting to think that medicine and
13 architecture have actually converged at various
14 points in time. And I think probably the
15 earliest example is the 1800's model of the
16 asylum here in the United States, this was in
17 Massachusetts, no longer exists.

18 But the model was developed actually
19 by a physician, Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride. And
20 he thought we needed to reinvent how we care for
21 the mentally ill. And his idea was to remove
22 them from their home, yes, to remove their
23 autonomy, but really with the idea of
24 beneficence, of doing good. And he thought the
25 only way we could treat them was in a place that

1 had natural light, ventilation, sunlight and
2 land.

3 But interestingly, first of all, a
4 physician came up with this idea and worked with
5 the architects, which I think is very much
6 needed going forward in long-term care. But if
7 you look at the floor plan, and I'll use my
8 cursor, you can see it's a sort of narrow,
9 double-loaded corridor with operable windows,
10 also very good for infection control and also
11 very good at bringing staff and patients natural
12 light and fresh air.

13 And then in the early 20th century we
14 see the tuberculosis sanatorium model. And this
15 was a paper I wrote for the CMAJ, the Canadian
16 Medical Association Journal, on my experience
17 visiting one of these sites that essentially
18 changed my career, that flipped me from
19 architecture to medicine, but that's a story for
20 another day.

21 This is interesting because this was
22 the building being used as a form of treatment.
23 We have no treatments for the contagion of TB
24 but we knew that the building could help. And
25 the architect designed every feature of the

1 building with infection control in mind, down to
2 the door handles, the chairs, the sinks, the
3 furniture.

4 And you know, Ida asked me about
5 successful long-term care models. This is one
6 of the Maggie's Centres. It's essentially an
7 example of an innovative model of psychosocial
8 oncology care, so cancer care. Not quite the
9 same but I think it's worth spending a moment on
10 this model. These are seen throughout the U.K.
11 and now in Hong Kong. You may have read about
12 them. They've been in the media. They're very
13 emotionally charged buildings that essentially
14 shape the way that care is delivered and
15 practiced and also experienced.

16 And the idea is each centre is custom
17 designed. This is the Frank Gehry Centre in the
18 U.K. and follows the principle of a domestic
19 scale. More typical, you know, typically more
20 domestic than a clinical setting to try to ease
21 some of the anxiety that comes with oncology
22 care.

23 And Charles Jencks, Maggie's husband
24 who commissioned the buildings, he was a strong
25 believer that design can impact practices of

1 care. And he said once in a speech, and I think
2 it's very powerful, he said that architecture
3 can even help prolong our life. He felt it was
4 that important.

5 The Maggie's Centres create something
6 called the "architectural atmosphere". It's
7 beyond just the bricks and mortar. We're
8 creating that negative (sic) space, that
9 atmosphere. And if you ask visitors to these
10 centres, who love them, what it is, they
11 actually say that the building acts as a silent
12 carer. So I think taking that idea and applying
13 that to the aged care environment is so
14 critical.

15 I'm a big supporter of evidence-based
16 design. And I'm not aware if you've had
17 discussions about this with some of the other
18 interviews that you've done, but evidence-based
19 design was modelled after evidence-based
20 medicine. As a clinician I would not provide a
21 preventative therapy or a treatment without
22 turning to the literature and our empirical
23 evidence. Well, we do the same thing now in
24 healthcare architecture.

25 This started in the 1980s with a study

1 that came out in the Journal of Science by
2 Dr. Roger Ulrich. And Dr. Ulrich did a simple
3 study. He took two groups of patients, this was
4 in the hospital so acute care, but I think we
5 can extrapolate some of this and apply it to the
6 congregate setting of long-term care.

7 He wondered how they would do based on
8 the view from their window. So these were
9 younger patients who had their gal bladders
10 remove. And if you were in the first group you
11 were in a hospital room that had a window with
12 this view, a brick wall; but in the second group
13 you were in a similar room with a window but you
14 looked at a park and a green space. And he
15 found that people who looked at the nature view
16 went home sooner, so shorter length of stay,
17 i.e. cost implications; took fewer doses of pain
18 medication during their stay; and nurses were
19 overall more satisfied with the care that was
20 delivered. The sort of big healthcare outcomes
21 based on the window view.

22 So now we're over 30 years out from
23 the study and we have thousands of these studies
24 in actual fact. So whether you might become
25 delirious in the hospital or even in a nursing

1 home, whether you fall in that environment,
2 catch an infection or sustain a medication
3 error, all have a relation back to the built
4 environment and we have data to prove it. So
5 the acoustics, the lighting, even the sink
6 placements matter.

7 As an example, what is the evidence
8 around falls and room design? This is a quick
9 sketch of a hospital room but you can see that
10 it can also apply to a long-term care setting.
11 In medicine we always grade evidence; not
12 everything is randomized control trial,
13 especially not in evidence-based design. But
14 observational studies and even anecdotal
15 evidence, I believe, have their place. So we
16 know with very good evidence, for example, bed
17 rails don't reduce falls. In fact, falls are
18 worse, injuries are worse, people get tangled up
19 in those.

20 We have pretty good emerging evidence
21 in architecture that single rooms designed to
22 support family presence prevent falls more than
23 a shared room. Your neighbours generally pull
24 the curtain and don't notify anyone if they
25 observe a fall; and good visibility. You can

1 see that in this sketch we've angled the door to
2 provide better visibility into the room for fall
3 prevention.

4 And then best practice evidence for
5 fall and design, putting the toilet room on the
6 same side of the bed, providing a hand rail from
7 the bed to the toilet room door. These are all
8 considered effective but in actual fact we don't
9 know. And I say this because I think we need
10 more research.

11 And I think in your cause in the
12 Commission I would suggest to you the idea of
13 studying models that you may have in Ontario
14 that are potentially successful and figuring out
15 what components of the built environment of
16 those models are successful. These studies are
17 definitely possible. Many people say you can't
18 study the effect of the built environment. I
19 don't necessarily agree. I think that you can.

20 And so talking about anecdotes, this
21 was an anecdote I learned early on as an intern
22 in New York City. A patient in an intensive
23 care room, again in the hospital, but she had no
24 window in her room. She was doing very poorly.
25 She was delirious. We actually moved her based

1 on that Roger Ulrich study, and based on the
2 evidence we found in a MEDLINE PubMed search.
3 So the clinical team actually considered the
4 environment in their care plan and when we moved
5 her to a window bed she got better.

6 Not to say that this a randomized
7 control trial, certainly not, it was n-of-1.
8 But I think the key lesson, and we wrote about
9 this for a medical journal and it was published,
10 was to say that the care team considers the
11 architecture in their care planning based on the
12 evidence they have available.

13 And people say, well, windows aren't
14 always possible. Well, we also have technology
15 now and so I think even though some of our
16 buildings might be deeper and not as narrow as
17 that original asylum floor plan, there are ways
18 we can integrate technology into our design
19 planning to make sure we maintain these
20 circadian rhythms that are so important.

21 So in the next few slides I've sort of
22 presented some anecdotal evidence. I would like
23 to give you some cause to believe that the built
24 environment should be considered alongside other
25 parameters of care, and is as important as a

1 medical intervention, as important as giving
2 someone a medication or treatment, a vaccine, a
3 preventative therapy. The built environment
4 matters.

5 And this is an example, again, a
6 critical care environment. I am presenting some
7 acute care data only because we haven't had as
8 many studies in long-term care.

9 This was a medical resident in New
10 York City, where I did my residency, who noticed
11 that while he was working in this critical care
12 unit, and working at the central nursing
13 station, he sort of thought that some of his
14 patients in the corner rooms weren't doing as
15 well and he wondered if the room made a
16 difference. So he did a study of over 600
17 people.

18 You can see that the visibility into
19 the lower, left-corner room is only 4 percent,
20 very different from the middle rooms with 60,
21 70 percent visibility. He actually found that
22 for sicker patients put into corner rooms their
23 chance of having a higher rate of morbidity and
24 mortality was present.

25 So if you are sicker and going into a

1 room you expect the care to be the same no
2 matter which room you're in, right? I would
3 imagine yes. But that may not actually be the
4 case and we might be subconsciously building
5 inequities into our healthcare spaces.

6 And I guess the question ethically
7 becomes, do patients have a right to know that
8 their care might not be as good? Mr. Smith,
9 you're going to be put into this room but, by
10 the way, we can't see you as well and you might
11 not do as well.

12 Sink placement, intuitively we know is
13 important, but a group from McGill University
14 actually quantified this. They did is a study
15 and found that for every additional metre a
16 health care provider had to walk to a sink their
17 chance of washing their hands went down by about
18 10 percent. I think numbers and empirical data
19 are important when I talk about this to try to
20 convince people, especially those outside the
21 architectural realm.

22 And I put the citations of the studies
23 on the slides. I'm happy to send them to you.

24 Long-term care and COVID. I presented
25 with some colleagues to the American Society for

1 Bioethics and Humanity several months ago, and
2 we essentially made this case that the building
3 is a parameter of care.

4 And I think COVID has really brought
5 to light in long-term care the disparities
6 related to the built environment and outcomes.

7 And this was the CBC data in about I'd
8 say June of the pandemic. Not causative
9 probably, this is just a correlation but I think
10 important. If you're in an older nursing home,
11 potentially of the 1970s standard, if you just
12 look at the raw numbers it appears that your
13 chance of dying from COVID is nearly double
14 versus newer buildings.

15 The next few images I've collected
16 over my experience is in different healthcare
17 settings. But design decisions matter a great
18 deal. This is a geriatric unit in San
19 Francisco. And you'll notice that the floor is
20 quite reflective and also striped, there's a
21 colour differentiation.

22 The geriatricians on this unit will
23 tell you that patients do not want to come out
24 of their rooms, right? You don't see anyone,
25 and walk. It's known that in cognitive

1 impairment, and as we were saying many people
2 have cognitive impairment in long-term care,
3 this type of flooring is interpreted, number
4 one, as wet because of the reflectiveness and,
5 number 2, as three dimensional because of the
6 stripes. And so patients don't want to walk.
7 And what happens when you limit mobility by
8 design you essentially get this cascade towards
9 dependency.

10 We know that many people in long-term
11 care are there because of a prior hospital stay.
12 And this is a wonderful paper by Dr. Morton
13 Creditor, from the Annals of Internal Medicine,
14 in the early '90s showing that people who go
15 into hospital who are older and get put into
16 bed, even for a day or two, end up becoming
17 disabled and going to a home not because of what
18 they came in with. We can treat a pneumonia, a
19 urinary tract infection, but it's because of the
20 bed rest.

21 And you can see this is the
22 physiologic cascade that happens to our bodies
23 with just a few hours in bed, especially at an
24 older age.

25 In the 1970s there were social

1 isolation studies done where they took healthy,
2 young volunteers in their 20s and strapped
3 them to a bed, and also denied them any sensory
4 stimuli like radio, or people talking to them or
5 television. And they found that in just under
6 two hours people started to have perceptual and
7 sensory changes, almost like a delirium. And
8 these were younger patients.

9 Dr. Creditor in his paper says, there
10 is no therapeutic value to strict bed rest. So
11 I question why we even call these long-term care
12 "beds". In a way we shouldn't focus on the bed
13 and the bed rest.

14 And as architects I think we also use
15 the bed as our focal point in our room design.
16 It's really the centre piece of the room floor
17 plan. I'm not sure that it should be, both in
18 the hospital and in the nursing home setting.

19 This is an interesting study that I
20 came across this year in my neurology
21 fellowship. This is done in the context of
22 advanced Alzheimer's disease, dementia. But a
23 simple design intervention, changing the white
24 tableware and swapping it out for high contrast
25 red tableware. People with end-stage dementia

1 eat and drink much less, but if you swap out the
2 tableware people eat and drink more. And so
3 such a simple change has a huge impact. This
4 has to do with visual and contrast changes that
5 occur in the brain in the case of demented
6 people. And if you think about nursing home
7 place settings and food a lot of it is very
8 monochromatic; mashed potatoes, fish, white
9 plates, not very high contrast; but it affects
10 how much people eat, which inadvertently affects
11 their health.

12 I am very interested in designing for
13 dementia. This is a typical memory care unit
14 you'll see. And I sort of ask how we're
15 designing for dementia through design. And are
16 we designing these long-term care sites more as
17 prisons than as health settings?

18 I think to come away from that
19 closed-door model what we're seeing now is this
20 idea of illusion. And as architects we have a
21 long history of deploying deception in buildings
22 to achieve a practical or aesthetic end. And
23 you've probably seen this in classical
24 architecture in Europe where architects have
25 encased columns to make them appear more

1 substantial, or using blank windows on the
2 façade of a building to appear symmetrical.

3 But in this case we're trying to use
4 the building as a restraint and limit people
5 from wandering and existing. So our goal is not
6 to do harm, to be beneficial. But I worry that
7 we haven't fully investigated whether this is
8 the best approach we have. Certainly I would
9 say it's better than physical restraints or
10 using medication.

11 To go one step further, this is the
12 original dementia village. And I know Ida asked
13 me about this, this is De Hogeweyk in the
14 Netherlands. You may be familiar with the
15 dementia village concept. We have one now in
16 British Columbia and there are a number in the
17 United States being planned.

18 So this really, I think, capitalizes
19 on evidence-based design. We found through
20 neuroscience and architecture that the areas of
21 the brain affected in early stage Alzheimer's
22 are the same areas of the brain we need for
23 spatial navigation. So by developing a village
24 design we can try and combat the confusion and
25 spatial disorientation that these residents can

1 feel.

2 So you have your apartment in the
3 dementia village but you're definitely free to
4 wander and come out to the Main Street, go to a
5 grocery store, get your hair done, have a beer
6 at the pub. Interestingly from a bioethics
7 standpoint you can buy a real apple and take a
8 bite but it's actually artificial money, so
9 there's some interesting concepts.

10 I'm writing an article right now about
11 this, but it's a little bit -- people compare it
12 to The Truman Show, it's essentially still a
13 gated community. And I guess the question
14 becomes, should people consent to this? Should
15 people say, my future self, if I lose my
16 cognitive abilities I will be okay with this
17 environment? That's maybe a discussion for
18 another day.

19 But this model is very successful in
20 the sense that anecdotal reports state that
21 there's very little psychotropic medication used
22 to try to calm people down, much less agitation
23 but, again, no empirical studies.

24 So this idea of freedom of movement
25 and meaningful activity through design are

1 definitely preferred in the village setting for
2 dementia care, but these are not yet minimum
3 design standards in our guidelines. So I like
4 this image because I think it talks to the need
5 for design solutions to blur this home-hospital
6 design continuum.

7 And I worry that with COVID we're
8 being quite reactive in how we want to change
9 the design of long-term care and make it more
10 towards a hospital setting, and I would caution
11 us not to do that. I've heard various anecdotes
12 about wanting full negative pressure rooms,
13 isolation areas. I think we have to also be
14 aware that these are homes, first and foremost.

15 And so you might have seen this paper
16 that I published with several colleagues earlier
17 on in the pandemic when we became worried about
18 this reactive approach. And this paper in the
19 Journal of the American Medical Directors'
20 Association, which is really the premier
21 post-acute, long-term care journal in the U.S.,
22 was really to say, we need to be pro-active not
23 reactive. Instead of designing for infection
24 control, and I know the Commission's mandate is
25 to think about infection control specifically,

1 but we tried to make a case for designing for
2 resilience. And through building resiliency we
3 will obtain infection control and more.

4 Pandemic preparedness, emergency preparedness,
5 preparedness with more cognitive impairment,
6 less cognitive impairment, the building can
7 really work with us if it's resilient.

8 And we also made the case in the
9 article, and I'm certainly happy to provide you
10 a copy, to consider spatial scales and not just
11 to look at the building in isolation; and how
12 the building interacts with both the
13 neighbourhood and the wider context of the urban
14 space.

15 In the paper we talk about the
16 household, or more specifically the greenhouse
17 model. And we mocked up a typical plan, so this
18 is just our interpretation of what this could
19 look like. And I'd like to spend a minute on
20 the household design model because there's been
21 quite a lot coming out in the research community
22 on this since COVID.

23 So this is typically 10 to 12 single
24 patient rooms with private bathrooms and
25 dedicated staff. It's interesting that there

1 are multiple entries and exit points. You have
2 a main entry but usually natural outdoor space
3 is also part of this design concept. And then
4 smaller, decentralized social and dining spaces.

5 I put this slide in to remind myself
6 because this is important, and I talk a lot
7 about staff, being a staff person in the
8 hospital. The greenhouse model is quite good in
9 thinking about designing for staff. And when I
10 looked back at a lot of our floor plans in
11 Ontario of the 1970s' nursing homes, one thing
12 that really jumps out is the lack of staff
13 space. There's generally -- I notice in the
14 basements a lockerroom, changeroom for staff and
15 not much else. So it becomes very difficult to
16 segregate staff in the event of outbreaks. And
17 also difficult to think about staff mental
18 health and wellness, staff retention, staff
19 burnout, staff well-being, are all impacted by
20 the architecture and design.

21 And then I think the greenhouse or the
22 smaller household model, I don't know that I'd
23 specifically call it the greenhouse model here,
24 but a small household model also I think
25 capitalizes on design for caregivers. I know

1 one of the questions I was asked to prepare for
2 the Commission was to think about visitation and
3 how we could potentially design visitation pods.

4 And I guess one could imagine a sort
5 of shipping container. We have designed those
6 to be ICU pop-ups or vaccination clinics that
7 can just pop on to an existing building. I
8 suppose you could design a visitation pod
9 complete with electrical hook up and maybe
10 proper acoustic controls so that people could
11 speak to each other through vision glass. But
12 you could pop it over here on to an exterior
13 exit or entry of the household model.

14 But I think if you design a resilient
15 building the building itself can do that without
16 the need for extra pods being attached at times
17 of need. You can have space that can flex. And
18 certainly if you have outdoor space that can be
19 a nice buffer in order to bring people from the
20 outside in, people from the inside out and have
21 them meet in a safe space.

22 There's good data out there to show
23 that the greenhouse model specifically has very
24 good outcomes with infection control. And
25 again, there's three papers here and I've just

1 summarized the bottom line from all of them but
2 feel free to take a look at them.

3 But the greenhouse homes of 10 to 12
4 residents not only help with infection control
5 but there's improved quality of life, fewer
6 hospital admissions, better quality indicators,
7 cost less and less staff turnover, all of which
8 are positive.

9 And then a recent preprint paper that
10 came out in Janda [ph] last week actually looked
11 at the greenhouse model homes, and quite a few
12 hundred of them, across the United States
13 comparing them to traditional nursing homes of
14 less than 50 beds and nursing homes of 50 or
15 more beds. The greenhouse models had no COVID
16 infections, no hospital admissions due to COVID,
17 and no deaths due to COVID, zero, zero, zero.
18 The other models had those so that's a very
19 striking outcome. And that's been talked about
20 in the popular press as well.

21 Now you might say to me, but it's
22 going to cost more. And if you read the popular
23 press, and there was a Nature of Aging article
24 that said the outcomes are great but it costs
25 more. There is an actual cost analysis paper

1 and if you look at the cost breakdown of the
2 greenhouse model some of the fixed costs may be
3 higher, but the operational costs, surprisingly,
4 are comparable to the traditional nursing homes
5 and you get more direct hours of care per
6 resident. And there are many potentials for
7 revenue enhancements because of all these
8 beneficial outcomes.

9 So I wouldn't just stop and say it
10 costs more, I would actually do a deeper dive
11 into the literature to ensure that's the case.
12 And I don't believe that's the case. There are
13 many successful Greenhouse Models out there.

14 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: Have you
15 looked at -- we've heard that you can take a
16 large facility with a lot of beds and create ten
17 to 12 patient -- or resident pods. Is that an
18 option as well or is that even more expensive?

19 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: I don't believe
20 that would be more expensive. I think I would
21 have to give that some thought regarding cost
22 from a design perspective. I think the pod
23 concept of breaking down a larger space can
24 work. I think you still run into design
25 challenges of single entry and exit points

1 whereby the smaller, more separate household
2 models would have separate entries and exits so
3 you wouldn't get throughput of staff.

4 I'm thinking about an example in
5 Montreal. The Montreal General Hospital, an
6 older building, double-loaded corridor. They
7 actually converted their ICU a number of years
8 ago and made it into a pod. It's a very long
9 floor plan with little pods. It works well but
10 the staff have to walk through all that to get
11 to the end pod.

12 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: And the
13 other thing I noticed is that your examples of
14 this are all single-bed, single bedrooms with
15 personal bathrooms. Is that the future?

16 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: That's a great
17 question. People focus a lot on the bedroom. I
18 will say that I think we're moving in that
19 direction just like we did for hospitals.

20 It wasn't so long ago that we were
21 lobbying, as part of the Building Code and
22 guidelines, to have the minimum standard as a
23 single patient room in a hospital, which we now
24 have if we're going to build new or renovate. I
25 believe we're on the same track for long-term

1 care. I do believe they're beneficial for fall
2 control, for infection control, for a number of
3 other reasons, privacy.

4 I do caution us though to think about
5 the isolation, which is not a small point. And
6 I think through design, and it's great that
7 we're on this slide, there are ways to give
8 people a private room with a bed and toilet room
9 that maybe isn't so large, but then use some of
10 that extra space in the corridor and in some of
11 the decentralized social spaces.

12 So this is a wonderful on-line paper
13 by Willa Granger based out of Australia, and
14 this is recent. And she writes about the
15 history of the nursing home building. And if
16 you look at the older examples they all have a
17 front porch. When you really drill down into
18 older adults, with or without cognitive
19 impairment, what they are doing all day, the
20 idea of watching, viewing and observing is
21 critical to their quality of life. They want to
22 interact with the community around them.

23 A hospice building in San Diego had
24 two sites and they asked the hospice patients,
25 would you rather be on the site overlooking the

1 ocean and the beach or would you rather have the
2 site on the canyon overlooking the highway? You
3 and I would probably say, Oh, I'll pick the
4 beach. Patients near the end of the life didn't
5 want that, they didn't want to feel so isolated.
6 They wanted to watch the cars, they wanted to
7 see human life around them.

8 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: That's good
9 to know. So smaller rooms where they want to
10 spend the least amount makes more space for what
11 they want to do, which is socialize.

12 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Correct. Nobody
13 really wants to spend all day in their bedroom.
14 I think coming out into -- the corridor is a
15 really underused space both in long-term care
16 and in the hospital.

17 Do you know how much happens in the
18 corridor? We do physical therapy, we have
19 family meetings and conversations. In an ICU in
20 New York a patient said to the doctor, I don't
21 know how far I've walked every day in this
22 corridor. And the doctor went out to Home
23 Depot, bought sticky numbers and put 1, 2, 3, 4.
24 That was enough incentive to get this patient up
25 and out of bed. They want to be up and moving.

1 So this idea of companionship
2 facilitated by this material context, the places
3 and porches. The concept of the porch is
4 something that I think we've lost over the
5 years. Allowing the elderly to touch the world
6 beyond. I think that's a powerful concept.

7 And I also put this in to remind me
8 that I'm nearing the end and maybe you can touch
9 on questions. But I put this in to remind
10 myself of models of care, and I think we've
11 touched on care models with this talk but we
12 have to marry the two. We can't have a new
13 method of design and not change the way we
14 deliver care.

15 This is a concept I did for the
16 Canadian Healthcare Network on clinic design for
17 older adults for geriatric care. We've come a
18 long way in medicine. We don't provide the
19 hierarchical care where somebody is behind a
20 desk with a computer screen between telling a
21 patient what to do. It's really about shared
22 decision making.

23 And as clinicians we sit with the
24 family and the patient and together present
25 evidence, and data, and options, and the patient

1 and their family make the decision. And so the
2 idea of a round table to sort of have design
3 equity here. Making sure everyone is on the
4 same level and we can all talk together, I think
5 the built environment really needs to model what
6 medicine is doing in our care practice.

7 Those are some examples, and that's
8 really all I have to say officially. But I'm
9 happy to go back to any of the images or studies
10 or take questions.

11 I do think we're at a pivotal point in
12 time, as Ansar said, and buildings can play an
13 enormous role going forward.

14 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: On the
15 buildings, can I ask a question on the staff?
16 You work in various place. Do you know the
17 level of the training of staff to deal with
18 long-term care patients? Like, do they have any
19 geriatric training or dementia training? Can
20 you comment on any of that?

21 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: I can comment
22 generally in terms of what I see, and I don't
23 know that I can comment specifically in Ontario.

24 I would hazard a guess to say that
25 probably there isn't so much direct training in

1 dealing with cognitive impairment and
2 mild/moderate to severe dementia as there is
3 with just standard care practices.

4 Certainly in some of the care models,
5 like the butterfly model, or the eden
6 alternative, that's pivotal. Staff are really
7 trained for that, for cognitive impairment. I
8 don't believe that's the case in general
9 long-term care homes.

10 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: Thank you.

11 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Even geriatric
12 medicine I think has come under some question.
13 It seems like the field is not as popular any
14 more, and there are a number of my colleagues
15 making the case that we need this. We need this
16 kind of model.

17 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: I agree.

18 COMMISSIONER ANGELA COKE: I was just
19 wondering if either of you are aware of the
20 design standards that are in place here in
21 Ontario for new builds and if you had any
22 thoughts about those standards?

23 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: So the 2015
24 standards? Is that what you're referring to?

25 COMMISSIONER ANGELA COKE: Yes, the

1 current that they have to comply with.

2 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Yeah. So I am
3 familiar generally with them. I probably
4 couldn't speak to specific details. You know,
5 comparing them to the older standards of the
6 1970s, certainly we've come into lower density
7 of rooms, so no longer the four-bedded room.
8 But I believe the 2015 care standards have
9 shared rooms and shared toilet rooms. And I
10 think the 2015 standards have come a long way in
11 decentralizing some of the social spaces and
12 dining spaces.

13 But I think given what we know about
14 aging, physiology, cognitive impairment,
15 neurodegenerative conditions, I think we can
16 probably push those standards further so that
17 the building accommodates older adults in more
18 ways.

19 ANSAR AHMED: If I can just add one
20 point regarding the standards? I think it's
21 important to understand that the signs that
22 underpin the development of these standards is
23 evolving so quickly.

24 And it's a very interesting comment
25 that came up in our round table, one of the

1 participants said that we were speaking sort of
2 negatively about the 1972 standards. And he
3 made the point that we shouldn't think -- it
4 would be wrong to think that those who developed
5 the 1972 standards somehow didn't care about the
6 elderly. They did care about the elderly but
7 they cared in the context of their knowledge in
8 1972.

9 And that knowledge has evolved so
10 greatly over the past number of decades with the
11 informed work of people like Dr. Anderson, that
12 I think it sort of behoves us as a province to
13 say, okay, are the 2015 standards the best that
14 we can do today in 2021, or should we be
15 continually dynamically evolving those
16 standards? Sort of a version 2.0, version 3.0
17 as we look to figure out what standards to
18 follow.

19 COMMISSIONER ANGELA COKE: Or maybe
20 incent people to go beyond the standard.

21 ANSAR AHMED: Absolutely. And that's
22 the thing that I get back to, which is on the
23 build sides, on the procurement side. When you
24 set out that the 2015 standards -- that your
25 target is to meet the 2015 standards that's what

1 you're going to get, because at the end of the
2 day it's about cost benefit.

3 And you have to incentivize those that
4 are going after this work, that want to do this
5 work to go above and beyond. As you mentioned,
6 Commissioner Coke, go above and beyond those
7 standards and see what else can be done.

8 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: That's a great
9 point about the 2015 standards. And I would
10 also hazard a guess to say there is emerging
11 evidence that potentially could be incorporated
12 into our guidelines.

13 In medicine we're constantly
14 revisiting our clinical guidelines and
15 incorporating new studies, new evidence. Some
16 of the studies that I presented to you they're
17 in the clinical literature, they haven't made it
18 over to the design guidelines.

19 So I think before we make big
20 decisions reviewing the literature is extremely
21 important. Looking at cases out there, even
22 beyond Canada in other countries and looking at
23 what's successful or not.

24 ANSAR AHMED: And Commissioner, sorry,
25 before you asked your question you had asked a

1 question, you were talking earlier about moving
2 to a model of a single bed, single bedroom for
3 all patients.

4 And I think one of the things that
5 came up, and it was actually at Southlake when
6 we did the new mental -- the acute adult mental
7 healthcare unit; and we moved away from the sort
8 of pods over to individualized beds. And one of
9 the important criteria was the notion of
10 self-value, self-worth, people's sort of sense
11 of privacy. And it becomes so important to
12 their overall healthcare that it was something
13 that the designers took into consideration.

14 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: It's really
15 important in every sense of care, from
16 pediatrics right through to hospital care, but
17 when it comes to long-term care it seems, well,
18 maybe something less is good enough.

19 And I think if you have to be alone
20 in -- like, single rooms in hospitals the
21 argument would be, well, at what age do you not
22 need to have a single room? And that's why
23 we're struggling with, if it's long-term care
24 it's okay if it's hospital it's not.

25 ANSAR AHMED: Yes, that sort of

1 feeling of self-dignity. What do we need?
2 Particularly when you talk about the washroom
3 facility.

4 COMMISSIONER JACK KITTS: To me I
5 think it's probably even more important at that
6 point in time where dignity and respect is what
7 you really need. So the conversation shifts, it
8 seems to shift depending on what age group
9 you're talking about.

10 And I liked your diagrams, Diana,
11 single bedrooms and single washrooms.

12 The question I was going to ask you
13 though is, you mentioned -- I think you said we
14 don't need negative pressure rooms in all
15 long-term care rooms. But do you have any
16 comments on the status of HVAC and the
17 importance that they would put on that in terms
18 of the new homes and design?

19 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Yeah. I think my
20 comment about negative pressure was just as a
21 caution not to spend the money on making every
22 room negative pressure capable in these types of
23 buildings. I'm not sure we should go in that
24 direction.

25 I think HVAC is an important topic. I

1 don't know that I can comment specifically on
2 Ontario's standards as I'm not practicing there
3 currently. There are probably better experts
4 out there than me, but I think it's an important
5 component to consider going forward.

6 But I think a lot of the built
7 environment configurations can handle infection
8 control in the segregation and decentralization
9 of space; flows through the space, making sure
10 that staff can be segregated. Staff flow is
11 different from patient flow is different from
12 caregiver flow. Those are all design problems
13 that we can sort out.

14 IDA BIANCHI: And Diana, can that be
15 done when you're retrofitting a building as
16 opposed to building from scratch?

17 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Good question. I
18 did take a look at a number of older flow plans
19 in Ontario with some architects early on in the
20 pandemic and we made suggestions for possible
21 retrofit. It's challenging, as you can imagine.
22 You probably couldn't get flow segregation but
23 you could probably decentralize space a little
24 bit more; potentially dedensify rooms from
25 shared to private rooms potentially.

1 But I think at a certain point do we
2 look at these buildings and say, there's only so
3 many improvements. I think a participant at our
4 round table sort of said, at a certain point
5 the iPhone can be upgraded, upgraded but then
6 you just have to get a new one because you can
7 only do so much with it. And I think we're
8 probably at that juncture to ask that question
9 with some of these buildings.

10 We run into the hospital challenges
11 with retrofit, trying to fit ceiling-mounted
12 booms into ICUs. If the billing is just too old
13 it's almost impossible to do and it really does
14 impact how care is delivered. So then we have
15 to think about a new location.

16 ANSAR AHMED: I think, Ida, if I could
17 just add? When you think notionally about
18 innovation being the mother of necessity, I
19 think we're at a point in time where those that
20 are -- those that have lived within the HVAC
21 community for their entire lives will tell you
22 that now that we understand what you're desiring
23 in terms of outcome, in terms of infection
24 control and all those things, of course we have
25 the technology to do that. Just give us the

1 direction, give us the authority and we will
2 come up with this system.

3 When you think about ozone filters and
4 ozone filtration, and all of these other
5 technologies that notionally nobody would have
6 ever thought to put into a long-term care
7 centre, well, all of a sudden now we are
8 thinking.

9 And I think the technology certainly
10 is there and it's just a question of marshalling
11 the necessary capital, resources, thought
12 leadership and get this moving ahead.

13 IDA BIANCHI: And that's in the
14 existing buildings or in new builds?

15 ANSAR AHMED: I don't see why in terms
16 of when you look at some of these packaged
17 solutions -- I mean a lot of these buildings
18 that were built decades ago, yeah, their current
19 HVAC system is so archaic that when you go into
20 the marketplace now you'll see that you have
21 innumerable opportunities to have more condensed
22 HVAC systems, and more sort of specificity
23 around infection control and flow control. And
24 I think it's just a question of going to the
25 right individuals to see what solutions are

1 available on the marketplace.

2 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: There are also
3 biocidal surface material solutions. You know,
4 thinking about technology, there are surface
5 materials, copper alloy that have good data
6 behind them that it kills viruses and bacteria.
7 Doesn't obviate the need for cleaning of
8 surfaces but is one more tool in our toolkit.
9 And so we're seeing that being deployed in
10 various long-term care settings. Technology is
11 something to keep in mind.

12 And I think there are successful
13 models in Ontario. I would love to see some
14 research studies looking at how these models are
15 successful, comparing them to standard,
16 traditional nursing home models and measuring
17 health outcomes. I think it would be a good
18 idea for us to undertake some of this research
19 in thinking about how we go forward.

20 At the old Bridgepoint Hospital as a
21 medical student, the old half round building,
22 you all remember that? The palliative care
23 unit, I went in and did a study with those
24 patients and asked them, Do you want to be in
25 this four-bedded room or would you want to be in

1 a private room? And surprisingly half the
2 patients said, and their families said, We don't
3 want a private room. We want a shared room.

4 Now, as a caveat nobody had
5 experienced a private room so there is probably
6 some bias in that study. But people describe
7 the experience of the dying process and wanting
8 connection. So I just make the case that the
9 research is important in understanding what the
10 users want. And we're potentially all going to
11 be users one day, so aging is inevitable for
12 most of us.

13 ANSAR AHMED: My father was actually
14 in that facility.

15 If I could just add one comment that I
16 would say to the Commissioners to keep in mind?
17 I think you've heard some tremendous information
18 from Dr. Anderson. Two weeks ago I heard the
19 same thing plus, plus, from a range of experts.
20 And I think while there's a lot of information
21 out there that they have I think the fact is
22 that we've never invested and given priority to
23 doing the right research.

24 So I think while certainly I'm very
25 pleased to hear that the government wants to

1 invest large sums of money in improving the
2 long-term care homes that we have in the sector,
3 I think at the same time, on a somewhat
4 different path, you need to invest into the
5 research. Let's get that empirical data to
6 underpin the development, as Commissioner Coke
7 mentioned, develop the new standards. How do we
8 evolve those standards?

9 Because you don't want to evolve
10 standards based on anecdotes you want to do it
11 based on evidence that Dr. Anderson mentioned.
12 And I think investing some time and money into
13 that sort of research I think would be, frankly,
14 time well spent.

15 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: I mean, even
16 investing time in searching the existing
17 research. There's a lot out there that exists
18 but it's about consolidating and asking the
19 right questions and searching the right
20 databases.

21 I think also there's a value to doing
22 an existing space needs assessment and looking
23 at what is there and how we can use it. Is it
24 usable? Can we re-allocate space?

25 I'm not saying we need to chuck all

1 existing buildings and start new, that's
2 obviously not feasible. But I think a space
3 assessment can be of great value too
4 architecturally.

5 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:

6 Are you aware, doctor, of any attempt to
7 quantify the healthcare savings associated with
8 architectural improvements? You understand the
9 healthcare system obviously that we have. And
10 it seems to me there is a value in linking the
11 architectural improvement to healthcare costs,
12 and I'm just wondering if you're aware whether
13 anybody has attempted to do that?

14 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Yes, is the short
15 answer. Maybe not as detailed and in-depth as
16 we would like. But I certainly think when you
17 think about costs there is the sort of tangible
18 cost to think about, how much money do you save
19 if someone stays in the hospital one day less
20 because of design? But also quality of life.
21 And probably there's ways to put dollars on
22 quality of life and that type of metric.

23 But there is evidence to show that if
24 you employ evidence-based design principles in
25 an acute care hospital setting, and it's called

1 the "Business Case for Better Hospital Design",
2 it was a famous paper, that your return on
3 investment for doing that, because people will
4 say, Well, it's a higher up-front cost to do all
5 these evidence-based design interventions, but
6 your overall costs it takes one to two years,
7 which is quite impressive. And there are cost
8 savings along the way in terms of shorter length
9 of stay, better outcomes, all of that.

10 So there is data out there to look at
11 the cost savings related to design
12 interventions. Even just the greenhouse costing
13 paper that I put into one of my slides is quite
14 convincing if you take a look at that. And it's
15 convincing me because it looks not only at the
16 direct costs and the building costs but also the
17 operational costs, which obviously is a big
18 issue in these types of facilities.

19 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO: I
20 was just thinking it helps the sort of
21 pedestrian approach like that. It helps to
22 justify the cost that you might put into the
23 structure or the design if you can perhaps
24 persuade people that there's an outcome, a
25 financially -- I don't know if favourable, but

1 an improved financial outcome. And that that's
2 what I was trying to -- because the problem is
3 that it's very siloed.

4 You spend more money on design and the
5 savings doesn't come necessarily out of the same
6 pocket that's spending the money on design. And
7 so even though looking at it from the
8 perspective of a taxpayer you would say, Well,
9 that's a good outcome. When you look at it in a
10 siloed approach one person is paying and another
11 person is reaping the benefit and that can work
12 against the change. That's what was in my mind
13 when I asked the question.

14 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: No, I hear you
15 for sure. I will say that I don't think good
16 design needs to cost more.

17 And anecdotally speaking, I sit on a
18 committee through the Society of Critical Care
19 Medicine and every year we judge worldwide
20 submissions for ICUs, either renovations or new
21 builds, and we look at the costs. And we ask
22 the group if they have spent more or less than
23 anticipated. And the winners generally, which
24 are often outside the United States, are under
25 budget. And they are some of the most advanced

1 ICUs that I've seen complete with
2 electrostatic glass, ceiling-mounted booms,
3 private rooms.

4 So I worry that there's a quick
5 approach to say good design has to cost more. I
6 don't know that that's the case.

7 ANSAR AHMED: And Commissioner
8 Marrocco, if I can just add to what Diana just
9 said? I think it's important if you step back
10 and take a look at the life cycle cost. And
11 frankly this has happened in basically every
12 major asset sector.

13 And where it becomes challenging is
14 right now in terms of budget, in terms of the
15 provincial budget process, you have two
16 different Ministries and that adds an entirely
17 different level of complication because there's
18 two different buckets of monies.

19 But you need to step back, look at the
20 life cycle cost and look at what your cap-ex and
21 -- balance your cap-ex and op-ex and figure out
22 how those two dovetail to give you the most
23 efficient use of tax dollars.

24 I mean, anecdotally I had a
25 conversation two weeks ago with a surgeon who's

1 the Chief of Ophthalmology. And he was
2 concerned over the fact that we have halted
3 cataract surgeries as a result of COVID because
4 of the need for dedicated surgical space. And
5 he was talking about the fact that without that
6 you have reduced visibility. People are --
7 their eyesights are declining rapidly and that
8 is exposing them to other falls and injuries,
9 which then has a cascading burden on the overall
10 healthcare.

11 So if any sector needs that life cycle
12 approach to investment planning it's healthcare
13 in my opinion.

14 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
15 Well, I don't think we have any further
16 questions. I just want to say thank you very
17 much. We are very much struggling with the
18 future. The waitlist here is significant and
19 the investment is significant. There is a
20 debate here between profit and not-for-profit
21 homes.

22 Actually you've given us a different
23 perspective and it's very helpful to realize
24 that the design component needs to be looked at.
25 And it's just not a matter of creating more

1 beds, if you understand me.

2 So thank you very much for your time,
3 and thank you very much for the presentation,
4 it's very helpful from our perspective.

5 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Thank you very
6 much. Thank you for listening to that whole
7 spiel. And if I can provide any additional
8 papers, even some of that cost research, I'm
9 happy to do so. You can contact me.

10 IDA BIANCHI: We have some of the
11 papers.

12 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
13 You can be sure of that. The rates we pay we'll
14 certainly remember that.

15 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: Can I say also,
16 in architecture we tend to say we need to build
17 a building and then inhabit it and then study
18 it, and that's a big undertaking.

19 We're looking at ways in healthcare
20 design to instead of doing post-occupancy
21 evaluations three or four years out to
22 pre-experience space. Build mockups, use
23 technology, virtual reality to create the space
24 before we build it. I think healthcare
25 architects have that skill set. I think they're

1 an important group within architecture that know
2 how to do that. And that may be a way to
3 envision the future without putting the cost
4 forward.

5 ANSAR AHMED: And lastly, in terms of
6 the round table we held a few weeks ago it is
7 our intention to submit a report, a summary
8 report to Minister Elliott and Minister
9 Fullerton, and we'll make sure that the
10 Commission receives a copy of that as well.

11 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO: I
12 was just about to ask. Thank you very much.

13 ANSAR AHMED: Absolutely.

14 LEAD COMMISSIONER FRANK MARROCCO:
15 That will inform us a bit better. Thank you.

16 DR. DIANA ANDERSON: This is an
17 important undertaking so I'm very glad you're
18 doing this work. Thank you very much.

19 IDA BIANCHI: Thank you, have a great
20 day.

21 --- Meeting ended at 10:13 a.m.

22

23

24

25

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, HELEN MARTINEAU, CSR, Certified
4 Shorthand Reporter, certify;

5 That the foregoing meeting was taken
6 before me at the time and date therein set
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8 All discussions had by the
9 participants were recorded stenographically by
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11 That the foregoing is a true and
12 accurate transcript of my shorthand notes so
13 taken. Dated this 10th day of February, 2021.

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