



STENBERG COLLEGE

MEMO

RE: Changes to RCA / Home Support Program

TO: Current RCA / Home Support Program Students & January 2010 Students

FROM: Sarina Corsi, Director of Education

DATE: December 22, 2009

The January 2010 cohort will be the last offering of the Resident Care Attendant / Home Support Program in its current format.

We have been offering the RCA/Home Support program for over a decade and Stenberg College graduates are well-recognized in the field with excellent employment prospects. Graduates from this program will continue to have excellent opportunities for employment in a variety of settings (Extended and Intermediate Care Facilities, Home Support Agencies, Adult Day Care Centres, and Assisted Living residences).

From March 2010, the title of the Resident Care Attendant / Home Support Program is being changed to the Health Care Assistant Program. With the exception of an added Home Support / Assisted Living Practicum, program content has not been added. This new practicum is the only substantial difference; even though it is being added, RCA/Home Support graduates can work in this field.

The curriculum has been reorganized to align it with the new provincial Health Care Assistant Program curriculum guide (2008). The program has also been extended by one week (from 26 to 27 weeks) and the instructional days have been lengthened from 5 hours to 6 hours. The program has also increased in tuition, from 7400.00 to 7750.00.

This program change is happening so that approved educational institutions are verified to be offering a consistent quality program. As you likely know, RCA programs currently being offered in BC may vary widely in program hours. For this reason, some RCA graduates may have been unable to obtain employment due to the reputation of the post-secondary institution from which they graduated.

An HCA Education Program Approval Body & Registry have also been created to support this transition. The Registry is in the final stages of being established and Stenberg College RCA/Home Support graduates will be 'grandparented' onto the Registry list, enabling them to work in facilities with publicly funded beds.

I look forward to providing students with updates and Registry application information as it becomes available. Stenberg College is committed to providing graduates with support through the process and any updates will be made available on our website www.stenbergcollege.com.

I wish you all the best in your studies. You can be confident in your job search that you have been well prepared and meet the competencies required for employment.