



January 29, 2021

The Honourable Everett Hindley  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,  
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health  
Room 208, Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina SK S4S 0B3

Via Email

Dear Minister Hindley:

Thank you for your January 29, 2021 request that I investigate the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak declared in early-December 2020 at the Extencicare Parkside special-care home in Regina, Saskatchewan.

As an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly under *The Ombudsman Act, 2012*, I have the authority to investigate matters on my own initiative. Therefore, I intend to investigate Extencicare Parkside's handling and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Saskatchewan Health Authority's and Ministry of Health's oversight over Extencicare Parkside and their support of the handling of the outbreak.

In the next couple of weeks, we will provide formal notice of our intent to investigate to the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and Extencicare (Canada) Inc.

*The Ombudsman Act, 2012* requires us to conduct investigations in private and maintain the confidentiality of the information we gather. However, the Act gives me the discretion to publish reports in the public interest. Given the public interest in this matter, I have decided that the final investigation report in this case will be made public. I intend to make this letter public as well.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary McFadyen'.

Mary McFadyen, Q.C.  
Ombudsman

c: Paul Merriman, Minister of Health  
Ryan Meili, Leader of the Opposition  
Max Hendricks, Deputy Minister, Health  
Scott Livingstone, CEO, Saskatchewan Health Authority  
Michael Guerriere, President & CEO, Extencicare (Canada) Inc.