



**THE VECTOR POLL™ –  
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF NURSES UNIONS  
MEMBERSHIP POLL ON LONG-TERM CARE AND  
HOME CARE CONDITIONS**

## **Summary of Home Care Results**

- 71% of the home care nurses surveyed spent at least 50% of their weekly scheduled work hours providing direct care.
- 88% of home care nurses say where they work the clients' acuity has increased within the past three years. Two thirds (63%) say it has increased "a lot."
- 74% of home care nurses say the regular core health care staff – the number and mix of nurses, health care aides or personal support workers – isn't sufficient to meet clients' needs.
- Nearly 90% of home care nurses say their workload has increased over the past three years, with 60% saying it has "increased considerably."
- Home care clients require more attention today than only a few years ago, but the majority of nurses still have confidence in the overall quality of client care in their home care programs.
- Where the quality of care has declined, an increase in the number of clients was the main reason cited for the decline in the quality of care (36%), with 11% indicating a shortage of nurses was implicated in the decline.
- Where the quality of care has improved, almost half (45%) say the main reason is additional education and training for nurses.
- About half (56%) of nurses reported that clients (or their families) did not have their care needs reassessed over the past month frequently or sometimes, and 37% reported omitted direct clinical care frequently or sometimes during the same time period.
- Almost 6 in 10 home care nurses (57%) report feeling tired, 22% unable to sleep, 8% in pain, and 45% mentally exhausted after a typical shift "all" or "most of the time."
- About 9 out of 10 home care nurses say they've been targets of harassment, assaults or threats on the job within the past 12 months.
- 68% of home care nurses have thought about leaving their job for a different occupation or a different employer over the past 12 months.
- "Excessive workload" and "too much stress or pressure" were the two most significant reasons for considering quitting.
- Overtime emerges as a significant issue for home care nurses: 63% worked overtime when they "would have preferred not to" at least once a week or almost every week.

## Method

The findings in this report are based on interviews conducted online from September 7 through September 26, 2017, for the Vector Poll™ with 1,116 nurses working in nursing homes (736 nurses) and home care (380 nurses), represented by eight unions in the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions.

The member unions submitted lists with email addresses for 16,588 nurses (after removing duplicates).

To correct the sample, The Vector Poll™ weighted the results to the share of each union's members who work in nursing homes or in home care.

With a pure random or probability sample of 1,116, one could say with 95% confidence that the overall results have a sampling error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points where opinion is evenly split.

This means you can be 95% certain that the results do not vary by more than 2.8 percentage points in either direction from results that would have been obtained by interviewing all the nurses in home care and long-term care represented by the eight unions in the study.

– Analysis by Marc Zwelling, CMRP  
President, The Vector Poll™