



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

## **The Vector Poll™ – Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions National Membership Poll on Long-Term Care and Home Care Conditions**

### **Summary**

- 71% of home care nurses surveyed spent at least 50% of their weekly scheduled work hours providing direct care. In nursing homes, 49% of the nurses spent at least half of their average weekly scheduled hours providing direct care to residents.
- Almost nine in 10 home care and long-term care nurses say where they work the clients' acuity has increased within the past three years. Two thirds (63%) of home care nurses say it's increased "a lot." Seven in 10 long-term care nurses say where they work the amount of attention residents require today has increased "a lot," compared with three years ago.
- Almost three quarters 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 meeting clients' needs. In nursing homes, an even larger share of the nurses – eight in 10 – say the regular core health care staff is not sufficient to meet residents' needs.
- Nearly 90% of home care nurses and long-term care nurses say their workload has increased over the past three years, with 60% in home care and 64% in long-term care saying it has "increased considerably."
- 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. Over half (55%) of long-term care nurses surveyed said they usually did not have enough time at work to do their job well.
- About 56% of the nurses in home care programs say clients sometimes or frequently did not have services monitored, and their care needs reassessed in the previous month. In long-term care facilities, nurses surveyed said in the previous month residents frequently or sometimes weren't helped with walking or exercise (62%), didn't receive foot care (51%) and toileting (49%). Turning residents so they don't get bed sores (44%), bathing (35%), and feeding residents (24%) were also omitted. Falling is the most frequently noted "major problem" for residents, say 57% of the long-term care nurses, followed by lack of timely care (38%).
- In home care and long-term care, six in 10 nurses report feeling tired regularly after a typical shift. About half describe themselves as "mentally exhausted", and for about a quarter of home care and long-term care nurses work regularly affects their ability to sleep. 27% of long-term care nurses report experiencing pain regularly after shifts (compared to 18% of home care nurses).

## 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™