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Futurist Richard Worzel speaks about the Challenges of the Future of Health Care at the People & Progress Conference

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: 10 AM (FEB. 8) 3RD FL., FANTASYLAND HOTEL
(immediately following the presentation from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Edmonton – Demographics tell us that the demand for health care workers is exploding at just the time when the single largest cohort of health care workers are edging towards retirement. In Alberta, there are not enough nurses graduating from post-secondary institutions to meet the present demand for services, and with vacancies at an all-time high, health care employers are trying everything to keep beds open.

On Friday February 8, in his keynote address to the 22nd annual People & Progress Conference, Richard Worzel, one of North America's leading futurists and author of *The Next Twenty Years of Your Life*, predicts the changes in store for the health-care system as the aging baby boomers both live longer, and place ever-increasing strains on health care budgets and facilities.

The People & Progress Conference, the longest-running continuing care conference in Canada, enables elder care providers to share knowledge and advances in continuing (long-term) care. This year's theme, "Continuing Care: Coming of Age," explores the effects of the upcoming demographic shift in society; managing chronic illness and complex care needs that accompany an extended life span; how to meet future expectations with limited resources and ethical issue in continuing care. As well, speakers will offer strategies for health care workers to cope with the anticipated challenges.

Richard Worzel is a Chartered Financial Analyst, strategic planner, best-selling author and frequent media commentator on business and economic trends. Richard's client list includes companies like Ford, IBM, Bell Canada, Xerox, Nortel and Lucent Technologies.

Presented by the CapitalCare Foundation, the 22nd annual People & Progress Conference runs Feb. 7 & 8 at the Fantasyland Hotel.

The conference ends with a keynote address by Dr. Gilles Lapointe, a general practitioner and humourist from Quebec. (10:30am-12pm) As host of the popular daily television show, "Allo Docteur," Dr. Lapointe became well-known for his hilarious presentations on healthy living and coping with stress. Dr. Lapointe speaks both French and English.

Information about the conference is available at www.capitalcare.net (click on "Conferences").

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To schedule an interview, please contact:
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CapitalCare is the largest public continuing care organization in Canada. Caring for people in Edmonton and area since 1964, our 2,800 staff provide care and services for 1,400 elderly and disabled adults living in 11 centres and over 300 clients living in the community. CapitalCare is a wholly owned subsidiary of Capital Health.