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## LOCAL NON-PROFIT RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE TRAINING PROGRAM

*Virtual Reality Simulation Training tool to integrate worker and resident safety with quality care services in nursing homes*

**FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, JANUARY 27, 2020** – As the acuity levels of long-term care residents increase, employees require a diverse, dynamic and robust skill set. Where once there was a manageable mixture of acuity levels in our nursing homes, today we estimate that over 80% of our residents suffer from some form of Dementia and require much heavier care.

“Great safety training programs exist for this sector. Unfortunately, so many require taking individuals off the frontlines for one, two, three days or more for training. Unlike other industries, nursing homes have limited resources for funding and these days, for employees too” says NBCCSA executive director, Denise Paradis; “this is why I had to think of an alternative way to get the training to the frontlines where it’s needed most”

Last year the Safety Association applied to receive funding from the [Centre for Aging & Brain Health Innovation](#) (CABHI) [SPARK](#) program which supports early-stage aging and brain health innovations for point-of-care healthcare workers. The New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) is a partner on this program with CABHI, and in November NBCCSA was advised that a combined total of \$100,000 was being awarded to help develop the first Virtual Reality (VR) training module. “NBHRF is pleased to partner with CABHI to help inspire a culture of innovation in the field of seniors’ health,” says Leah Carr, Interim CEO. “This is a prime example of how partnerships are so important in working toward improving the quality of life and care for older adults in Canada and around the world. We are also pleased to welcome the New Brunswick Continuing Care Safety Association to the health research enterprise.”

The VR training module will be solely developed by New Brunswick organizations, “the local Fredericton company who will produce the training modules has also donated some time to help move the project forward” continues Ms. Paradis “we are going to meet the worker where they are and they will have access to training on a daily basis, what could get any better than that!”

Members of the press wanting more information are invited to attend the cheque presentation at the NBCCSA office, 206 1133 Regent Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick at 11h00 on January 27, 2020.

## ***Safety in Caring***

### ***About Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI)***

The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation is a solution accelerator for the aging and brain health sector, providing funding and support to innovators for the development, testing, and dissemination of new ideas and technologies that address unmet brain health and seniors' care needs. Established in 2015, it is the result of the largest investment in brain health and aging in Canadian history. Spearheaded by Baycrest, CABHI is a unique collaboration of healthcare, science, industry, not-for-profit and government partners. CABHI's objective is to help improve quality of life for the world's aging population, allowing older adults to age safely in the setting of their choice while maintaining their cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being. For more information on CABHI, please visit: [www.cabhi.com](http://www.cabhi.com).

### ***About the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF)***

The NBHRF is the provincial health research funding organization with a mandate to coordinate, support and promote health research in New Brunswick. It is governed by a board of directors comprised of key stakeholders from the health research community in New Brunswick and provides leadership in building health research capacity to improve the health of New Brunswickers and advance the knowledge economy.

### ***About the New Brunswick Continuing Care Safety Association (NBCCSA)***

The New Brunswick Continuing Care Safety Association (NBCCSA) is a not-for-profit association created by the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes (NBANH) and WorkSafeNB with the intent to not only service the unique needs of the nursing home sector, but to promote health and safety for the homecare, special care homes and acute care streams. The NBCCSA provides cost-effective, custom built programs, solutions and tools to meet the needs of the sectors it serves while maintaining the high standards of care provided by its members.