

Elderly speak of abuse -- or worse -- death; Many homes below standards

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The litany of complaints about Ontario's long-term care facilities covers everything from diapers to death.

A Canadian Press investigation recently found a shocking 75% of homes last year had failed to meet some of the 463 standards the province says they must comply with.

While operators continue to complain that some of those standards are trivial and have little or nothing to do with quality of care, they also include rules on how often residents are bathed or have their diapers changed and how restraints are used.

In one of the most disturbing cases to emerge this year, a Leisureworld Caregiving Centre on O'Connor Dr. was barred from admitting any more patients for at least 30 days after two died this year.

FATAL FALL AND CHOKING

Wally Baker 67, died April 30 after falling from a lift that moves patients from their wheelchair to their bed. Three days later, Florence Coxon, 87, died after choking on a strap used to restrain her in a wheelchair.

Both deaths are being investigated by the coroner's office.

The **Canadian Union of Public Employees** launched a drive to increase minimum staffing levels, using a super absorbent diaper as an example.

DIAPERS CHANGED

The diapers are supposed to be changed when full, but **CUPE** showed how two litres of water could be poured into the diaper before the blue line indicating it was full appeared.

Yesterday, Ontario ombudsman Andre Marin announced he'd investigate the list of standards and how the government monitors them, a move welcomed by NDP MPP Peter Kormos.

"We are aware already of circumstances where people have died, being strangled by the restraining devices that are being used to tie them down ... Our parents and grandparents sitting in their own waste for hours at a time ...

"These are some of the things that we know exist and we hope the ombudsman is going to learn about in great detail over the next few months."