

# Long-Term Care - Fact Sheet

## An explosion in the number of people 85 and older

Long-term care beds are not keeping up with the explosion in the number of people 85 and over, the main age group in the homes.

This is not just passing a problem. The rapid growth in the 85 plus population is going to continue. Ontario Ministry of Finance figures indicate that in the five years between 2006 and 2011 the number of people 85 and over increased 34%. By 2016 the 85 and over population will have increased by 67% over 2006 — and the ratio of those 90 and over compared to those between 85 and 90 will have increased from about 50% to 70%.

## Much slower growth in Long-Term Care (LTC)

Statistics Canada research shows that between 2003/4 and 2009/10 the total number of residents in "homes for the aged" (a phrase used by Statistics Canada to mean a range of LTC facilities) increased from 76,866 to 84,873 in Ontario. That is an increase of 8,007 residents, or 10.4%. The number of 'approved' beds is increasing more slowly, growing by 7,186 beds, going from 81,849 beds to 89,035. That is an 8.8% increase.

The population 85 and over is growing roughly *four times more rapidly* than the number of LTC beds.

So, the number of people aged 85 or over in these homes is increasing rapidly, growing by 18.8% between 2003/4 and 2009/10. The 85 and over age group is now a majority in the homes.

While the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care has suggested that new long-term care beds make up for hospital bed cuts, they do not even make up for the growth in the relevant population. And, despite government rhetoric, 10,000 Ontarians wait for home care and the government plans to reduce home care funding increases.

Accordingly, wait times for LTC beds have more than doubled in recent years. Given the modest plans to expand the number of LTC beds, this may well get worse. The growth in LTC beds is falling far behind the growth in the elderly population.

Notably, in a speech to the last Ontario Hospital Association convention, the Minister of Health and LTC cited, approvingly, Denmark, which, she claims "hasn't built a new nursing home since 1987."



## How do LTC expenditures in Ontario compare with other provinces?

A recent Statistics Canada report on residential care facilities indicates that expenditures per resident per day in "homes for the aged" (the phrase used by Stats Can to mean a range of LTC facilities) are considerably less in Ontario than in Canada as a whole. Quite a bit less, in fact: \$28 per resident per day.

	Operating facilities		Expenditures per resident-day
	Number	Approved beds	
			dollars
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>215,313</b>	<b>183.6</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>89,035</b>	<b>155.3</b>

All other provinces, except for PEI and New Brunswick, have higher expenditures. Some provinces are considerably higher (Quebec \$254.30, Saskatchewan \$216.70, Alberta \$201.80).

At the same time, income from residents for accommodation makes up a *much* larger portion of total income in Ontario homes for the aged than in homes for the aged in Canada as a whole.

Homes for the Aged	Ontario	% of total	Canada	% of total
Total, income generated in operating residential care facilities	4,855,498*		13,770,780	
Co-insurance or self-pay	1,472,995	30.3%	3,018,147	21.9%
Differential for preferred accommodation	148,171	3.1%	205,316	1.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>33.4%</b>		<b>23.4%</b>

Developed from Statistics Canada Ontario and [Canada](#) residential care (homes for the aged) income charts.

\*Reported in thousands of dollars.