

PETITION to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Whereas Quality care for the 77,000 residents of long-term care (LTC) homes is a priority for many Ontario families;

Whereas Over the last 10 years 50 per cent of Ontario’s hospital-based complex continuing care beds have been closed by the provincial government; and, there has been been a 29.7 % increase in the acuity level of LTC residents and 73 per cent of LTC residents in Ontario suffer from some form of Alzheimer’s or dementia;

Whereas The provincial government does not provide adequate funding to ensure care and staffing levels in long-term care homes keeps pace with residents’ increasing acuity and a growing number of residents with complex behaviours such as dementia and Alzheimer’s;

Whereas There is extensive evidence that a care standard can result in increased staff levels, which translates into improved quality of care for residents;

Whereas For over a decade several Ontario coroner’s inquests into nursing deaths have recommended an increase in direct hands-on care for residents and increase in staffing levels;

Whereas The Ontario Liberal government first promised a legislated care standard for residents in the province’s long-term care homes in 2003 but in 2013 they have yet to make good on their promise;

Whereas The Long-Term Care Homes Act (2007) empowers the provincial government to create a minimum standard – but falls short of actually creating one;

Whereas The most detailed and reputable study of minimum care standards recommends 4.1 hours of direct care per day; and,

We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

1. An amendment must be made to the Long-Term Care Homes Act (2007) for a legislated care standard of a minimum 4 hours per resident each day adjusted for acuity level and case mix;
2. The Province must increase funding in order for long-term care homes to achieve a staffing and care standard and tie public funding for homes to the provision of quality care and staffing levels that meet the legislated minimum care standard of 4 hours;
3. To ensure accountability the province must make public reporting of staffing levels at each Ontario LTC home mandatory;
4. The province must immediately provide funding for specialized facilities for persons with cognitive impairment who have been assessed as potentially aggressive, and staff them with sufficient numbers of appropriately trained workers;
5. The province must stop closing complex continuing care beds and alternative level of care beds to end the downloading of hospital patients with complex medical conditions to long-term care homes.

Name (Print)

Address with Postal Code

Signature

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