

NDP KEY COMMITMENT: GUARANTEED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR SENIORS IN LONG-TERM CARE

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Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton says fairness for seniors and their families means providing the best long-term care possible. Today Hampton announced the NDP's latest key commitment – a guaranteed minimum standard of 3.5 hours a day of hands-on nursing and personal care for seniors living in long-term care homes.

“Too many seniors in long-term care – our mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers – are being denied the basic care they need. Minimum standards are the only way to make sure seniors in long-term care get the care they deserve,” said Hampton.

Dalton McGuinty broke his promise to restore the 2.25 hours of hands-on daily care for each long-term care resident—a regulation cancelled by the Conservatives in 1996.

“The McGuinty Liberals have basically written off seniors in long-term care by denying them the support they need to live vibrant, active lives,” said Hampton. “After a lifetime of building our province and caring for their families, our seniors deserve better.”

Underfunding and understaffing means basics like bathing, repositioning, referrals to medical care and even feeding, are left undone because there is just not enough care time. This shortfall has serious health and quality of life implications for both long-term-care residents and over-stretched staff.

The NDP would hire enough nurses, personal support workers and other health care staff to guarantee that all long-term care residents get at least 3.5 hours of hands-on care each day. Guaranteeing minimum standards of care would help to

relieve the strain on working families who are often providing, unpaid, much of the care that should be provided by long-term care professionals.

New Democrats would also increase home care and caregiver supports so seniors who are able can live independently in their community as long as they wish.

“Dalton McGuinty got it wrong when he broke his promise to bring back minimum standards of care. Working families can count on New Democrats to get it right and make sure seniors get the care and respect they deserve,” said Hampton.