

Orazietti muddies issue of funding

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RE: Residents suffer most from cuts at Davey Home -CUPE, April 3, 2014

The distinction between cuts to resident care now underway at the FJ Davey Home and cuts to provincial funding for long-term care is an important one. Unfortunately, this key difference is muddled by comments made by MPP David Orazietti to the Sault Star about funding.

It is indeed fact that there are a multitude of cuts to nursing, personal care, dietary and housekeeping at the FJ Davey Home. We think that Orazietti should be extremely concerned that while his government has not cut funding, the nursing home is making cuts to resident care and staff. He should be asking why these cuts are happening. It is understandable that Orazietti would defend his government's funding record for frail nursing home residents. It is worth noting that the miniscule .78 per cent provincial funding increase allocated to FJ Davey for 2013-2014, barely covers inflationary costs for necessities like for utilities and food for residents.

We take no issue with Orazietti's comments that on paper -in dollar amounts -provincial funding for long-term care has increased. This is just simple math and demographics. More Ontarians (nearly 80,000) are living in nursing homes, so provincial accounting ledger allocations for long-term care would reflect that.

The problem is this, baseline funding is far too low to meet the actual care needs of residents today, the majority of whom are over 80 years old and have complex medical conditions.

Conflating the very real cuts to resident care at the FJ Davey Home and provincial funding is misleading and should be avoided.

Residents' families and front line staff want their local MPP to work with them to focus on the real issue; getting the cuts to resident care levels rescinded. Raising red herrings is not helpful to ensuring residents get the care they need.

CANDACE RENNICK, SECRETARY. TREASURER CUPE ONTARIO