



3.5 Long-Term Care Campaign: Sample letters to the editor

#1

One year ago, the McGuinty government promised to establish staffing and care standards to make sure nursing home residents get the care they need. Instead, Health Minister George Smitherman is running yet another consultation.

The time for talk is over. Caregivers in long-term care facilities are run off their feet trying to provide quality care. Residents in nursing homes are enduring shameful living conditions. With so few staff, too many residents have to get up hours before breakfast is ready, and too many don't get enough walking and exercise.

Our loved ones, vulnerable and frail residents, deserve an average 3.5 hours of care each day. That's the standard of care that Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick are striving to achieve. These people built this country and the least this government can do is provide the care they need and deserve. Minister Smitherman would do well to remember that one day, it is going to be him and the rest of us needing that care.

Signed,

[names]

#2

Ontario residents need to ask themselves why Alberta, New Brunswick and Manitoba care more for their elderly and frail in nursing homes than this province does. Those provinces are striving to provide three-and-a-half hours of care each day for every resident of nursing homes because numerous studies have shown that's what it takes to meet today's demanding needs. Not so in Ontario. Despite three promises by Health Minister George Smitherman and Premier McGuinty, they have yet to reinstate staffing and care standards for Ontario homes. Instead, they are running yet another consultation. The time for talk is over. Minister Smitherman, show you care for our loved ones, vulnerable and frail residents, and implement a 3.5 hours standard of care for them now.

Signed

[names]