

Liberal MPPs receive a Valentine's message from CUPE—"Act on your 3.5 hours of care promise"

Ontario MPPs across the province got the message loud and clear on Valentine's Day that CUPE members are committed to improving the standards of care for vulnerable people in long-term care facilities.

Hundreds of CUPE Ontario long-term care sector members took part in information pickets calling on local Liberal MPPs to pressure the health minister to introduce staffing standards and a 3.5 standard of care for long-term care residents.

Elderly and frail residents in Ontario's long-term care facilities are facing increasingly intolerable living conditions because health minister George Smitherman has failed to establish staffing and care standards for nursing homes despite repeated promises," said Candace Rennick, CUPE Ontario executive board member and a long-term care worker.

Smitherman made a promise to establish a minimum standard of care during consultations regarding Bill 140—the Long-Term Care Act passed last spring. But a year later, there is no indication a minimum standard of care is being enacted by the McGuinty government.

"Incontinence products are being rationed, residents are waiting hours for a meal and sometimes have to forgo walking and exercising because caregivers are so short-staffed and run off their feet," said Rennick.

Along with the Valentine's Day pickets, CUPE Ontario launched a radio campaign that aired through to February 17, 2008 in cities including: St. Catharines-Niagara; Hamilton; Windsor; Peterborough; Ottawa; Kingston; North Bay; Sudbury; and Timmins.

[Click to see photographs from Long Term Care Picket Peterborough](#)