



Long Term Care Awareness Day

LONG TERM CARE NEEDS FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

November 22, 2022

As our population ages, Ontarians need a long-term care system that is capable of providing the highest quality of care. For 40 years, **Concerned Friends** has worked to address issues relating to Long-Term Care (LTC) and help people who are currently navigating the system.



Source: Monkey Business Images

We feel it is important that more and more people understand what is at stake for their future and our communities. Today's LTC and future LTC is affected every day, by government policy, your voice as a voter, social attitudes, and systemic issues.

For those reasons, Concerned Friends is marking one special day a year to raise more awareness, gather more voices, and gather more friends!

On November 22, show you care about Long-Term Care.

How to Show you Care

As an Ontarian, you have a really powerful tool at your disposal - your voice.

Talk to your elected officials

You can reach out to the Premier or your **Member of Provincial Parliament** (MPP).

Share info with your network

Use social media or in-person conversations to share what you know about LTC with your friends, family, and colleagues.

Stay in the loop

Follow organizations like **Concerned Friends** and others in the CF network to stay on top of new developments in LTC in Ontario.

Become a supporter

Add your voice to ours by becoming a **member** or **donor** so that we can continue to support those seeking help in navigating the LTC system.

LTC Issues, Solutions & Questions

Over the last year, Concerned Friends has submitted several position papers to the Government outlining key long-term care home (LTCH) issues and solutions. Here is some information to help you get started.

The Issue	Proposed Solutions	Questions to Consider
<p>Lack of accountability, enforcement and funding for compliance to meet new LTCH standards.</p> <p>CBC reported that only 9 Resident Quality Inspections (RQI) were carried out in 2019. To date, only one LTCH has been fined for lack of compliance.</p>	<p>The new LTCH Act re-introduces annual unscheduled and comprehensive inspections. This is positive but must now be carried out with adequate follow-up and enforcement to ensure compliance.</p> <p>There is a direct connection between compliance and funding. LTCHs need significant funding increases to meet the new standards.</p>	<p>How will funding be increased to LTCHs so that homes can meet new standards and improve quality and safety?</p> <p>How are annual, unscheduled inspections being implemented? How are follow-up and penalties for lack of compliance being monitored?</p>
<p>A need for increased quality and safety of care.</p> <p>Residents in LTCHs comprise one of the most vulnerable populations in Canada. Across the country, LTC residents accounted for 3% of all COVID-19 cases and 43% of COVID-19 deaths.</p>	<p>LTCHs must be funded for enhanced staffing models associated with quality, safe care. For example, each home should have a resident medical director, increased number of nursing staff, and access to a full range of allied health professionals.</p>	<p>What is the plan to increase quality of care and improve residents' access to a range of health and social supports?</p>

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<p>Increased LTC human resource challenges (staffing levels and working conditions).</p> <p>Staff turnover and vacancy rates have been high. 70% of LTCH staff are employed part-time leading to staff turnover.</p> <p>Salaries in LTCH are not competitive. Bill 124 caps salaries in the health sector at 1%; LTCH staff earn lower salaries than staff in other healthcare facilities and will not catch up with this ceiling in place.</p>	<p>A bold and comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy needs to be implemented by Ontario to address vacancies and the need for more qualified staff to care for residents with increasingly complex needs.</p> <p>Four hours of personal care, on average, across the province by 2025 is not sufficient. A minimum of four hours per resident must be implemented.</p> <p>Recent wage increases don't go far enough. LTCH salaries need to be comparable to the hospital sector.</p>	<p>What is the plan to address the staff shortages in LTCHs?</p> <p>How will care needs actually be met with only a provincial average of 4 hours of direct care per resident?</p> <p>Is there a commitment to ensuring more equitable salaries and benefits for personnel working in LTCHs?</p>
<p>Too few LTCH beds.</p> <p>Ontario's population is aging. Currently, 40,000 people are on the waitlist for LTCHs. The median wait time for a LTCH bed from community is 188 days and from hospital is 114 days.</p> <p>According to Statistics Canada, the proportion of persons 65 and over in Ontario is projected to reach between 21.2% and 26.1% by 2043.</p>	<p>Expansion of beds should be in the not-for-profit or municipal sector in order to maximize accountability for public funds and ensure all health dollars go to resident care and not profit lines.</p>	<p>How will the government meet the demand for more LTC beds?</p> <p>What is the funding commitment and strategy for LTCH expansion?</p> <p>How will not-for-profit and municipal providers be prioritized?</p>