



Long Term Care Awareness Day

LONG TERM CARE NEEDS FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

November 22, 2023

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 are some of the issues and our proposed solutions and questions.

The Issue	Proposed Solutions	Questions to Consider
<p>Lack of accountability to meet new LTCH standards.</p> <p>The new LTCH Act re-introduced “Proactive Compliance Inspections” that would monitor standards in long-term care homes. According to our Review team, only 61 Proactive inspections were conducted in 2022 for 624 Long-Term Care Homes. In 2023, to date, <u>only 92 have been completed</u>. This is a serious lack of oversight and must be addressed.</p>	<p>Proactive Compliance Inspections should be annual, comprehensive and go beyond investigating specific complaints or critical incidents. Most of all, they need to be carried out in all 624 homes as a basic method of system oversight and accountability.</p>	<p>Why has the Ministry been slow to fully implement these critically-important inspections?</p> <p>When will their commitment be fulfilled?</p> <p>What plan does the Ministry have to facilitate compliance and fully enforce standards?</p>

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<p>A need for increased quality and safety of care.</p> <p>Residents in LTCHs comprise one of the most vulnerable populations in Canada. Quality and safety are intricately connected to adequate and qualified staffing levels. Yet, LTCHs are chronically under-staffed.</p> <p>The <i>Fixing Long-Term Care Act</i> promised to work towards a standard of an average 4 hours of care per resident. This is not a reality for most residents in Ontario.</p>	<p>Long-term care homes must be funded to provide compensation that is competitive with hospitals in order to recruit and retain qualified staff. Furthermore, the Ministry should establish a resident-to-staff ratio along with enhanced staffing models that contribute to quality, safe care. For example, each home should have a resident medical director or nurse practitioner, an increased ratio of registered nurses to other nursing staff, and access to a full range of allied health professionals.</p>	<p>What progress is being made on the well-documented human resource crisis in long-term care?</p> <p>What steps are being taken to enable the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals?</p>

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<p>Expansion to reflect Best Practices.</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 the community is 188 days and from a hospital is 114 days.</p> <p>According to <u>Statistics Canada</u>, the proportion of persons 65 and over in Ontario is projected to reach between 21.2% and 26.1% by 2043.</p>	<p>There is a clear need to expand the number of long-term care homes as well as other long-term care options such as supporting aging in place, to meet the growing need. Moreover, expansion is an opportunity to reflect best practices in a larger way. This means focusing expansion in the not-for-profit and public sectors where public funding is used to enhance care and not to finance profits. Second it means building homes that incorporate best practice design elements, including smaller care units in smaller homes or clusters, rather than building large institutions.</p>	<p>How will not-for-profit and municipal providers be prioritized?</p> <p>Why is the government still investing in large institutions with large care units?</p>