

Long Term Care Homes

Long term residential care in Canada is currently in need of serious review. In spite of repeated calls for reform, little has occurred. These homes are underfunded and understaffed with staff that are insufficiently trained and compensated for the work that they do. The COVID-19 pandemic brought these conditions to the fore front, with, as of July 1, 2022, 43.5% of the COVID-19 deaths in Canada occurring in the residents of long term care homes.

SOME ASPECTS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Inclusion of long term care to the Canada Health Act: This would provide national standards under which all long term care homes in Canada would operate.
2. Terminate all for-profit LTC homes: As of the deaths that occurred in long term care homes occurred in facilities that are privately run. The profit margin comes at a cost to our seniors.
3. Hire qualified staff: Provide Training to increase the number of qualified individuals available for the work required.
4. Improve pay for LTC workers: Set a minimum pay standard and compensation for all LTC workers consistent with workers doing comparable jobs in the hospital sector.
5. Increase number of full time staff: Each facility needs to employ at least 75% of their staff as full time employees.
6. Legislate a standard of care: Legislate a standard of care that ensures that each LTC resident will receive a minimum of four hours of hands-on-care.
7. Demedicalize treatment of residents: Where possible, demedicalize the treatment of residents. They should maintain a level of mobility, choice and other freedoms that help make their lives rich.
8. Access to caregivers: Family or friends that serve as caregivers need to have legislated access, even during times of contagious outbreaks, with proper PPE when required.
9. Increased funding: Funding must be increased to appropriate levels to support these changes.

Questions needing answers by our politicians

- Will you support legislative changes to bring long term care homes under the national umbrella?
- Will you support allowing only not for-profit LTC homes ?
- Will you support the need for increased funding for LTC in Canada?