



# LONG-TERM CARE 2022–23

**Key Message:** Long-term residential care in Canada needs serious review. Repeated calls for reform are being ignored.

Long-term residential facilities are underfunded and understaffed with a work force that is insufficiently trained and insufficiently compensated for their work. The COVID-19 pandemic shone the spotlight on the unacceptable conditions in LTC residences — 43.5% of the COVID-19 deaths in Canada were those who resided in long-term care.

## ASPECTS TO CONSIDER:

1. **Include Long-term care in the Canada Health Act** to provide national standards for the operation of all long-term care homes in Canada.
2. **Terminate all for-profit LTC homes.** As of December 2020, 70% 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.** Ensure appropriate training is available 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 the number of full-time staff** by employing at least 75% as full-time employees.
6. **Legislate a standard of care** that ensures that each LTC resident will receive a minimum of four hours of hands-on care per day.
7. **Demedicalize treatment of residents.** Maintain a level of mobility, choice and other freedoms that enrich the lives of LTC residents while supporting positive physical and mental well-being.
8. **Provide access to caregivers.** Legislate residence-access for family and friends serving as caregivers, even during contagious outbreaks, with proper PPE when required.
9. **Increase funding** to appropriate levels immediately the proposed changes.

## Questions for 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?