

May 27, 2020

STATEMENT

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) released the following statement related to the Ontario Government's announcement on long-term care:

"There is zero tolerance for abuse or neglect in the care of our most vulnerable seniors, and Ontario's long-term care homes support the provincial government's efforts to investigate where this may have occurred.

Inspections are important measures; however, they do not provide the immediate resources and hands-on support homes urgently need on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19, nor do they address longstanding systemic and structural issues exacerbated by the pandemic that threaten its sustainability.

The focus must remain on immediate action to stabilize homes in outbreak, and to keep it out of other long-term care homes in a potential second wave. The Ontario Government must take action with these urgent short-term solutions:

1. Supply personal protective equipment
2. Increase access to rapid testing
3. Commit to essential investments for older homes to enable more effective infection control required by the spread of COVID-19
4. Increase support from homes' medical directors, hospitals, and other health service providers and primary care resources
5. Continue human resources flexibility
6. Expedite capital redevelopment funding

There will be 2 million more seniors in Ontario within the next 25 years, many of them over 80 years of age. The Ontario Government review must be focused on ensuring the sustainability of long-term care so it is there for our most vulnerable when they need it. True partnership between long-term care, the rest of the healthcare system, and with our labour partners will mean the improvement to seniors' care we need now and into the future in order to combat this unprecedented health care emergency and to serve our seniors."