

November 20, 2020

STATEMENT

Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) released the following statement related to Ontario Adding 3,000 New and Upgraded Long-term Care Spaces

“We have a long road ahead to ensure seniors in communities across the province have the supports they need. Today’s announcement of long-term care spaces is important – and one of many we need made with urgency – even to just meet previous Ontario Government commitments of 30,000 new and redeveloped long-term care spaces. Today’s announcement brings us to the halfway mark on this commitment, and there are still many older homes that urgently need to be rebuilt. The majority of major outbreaks during the pandemic have been in homes where there is a high rate of COVID-19 in the community, and in older homes that have significant space constraints and outdated infrastructure.

We are already behind in meeting demand for long term care, as evidenced by a growing wait list of 38,500. With the population over 80 set to double in the next 16 years, we have no time to waste to meet the increasing needs across Ontario. Our window is closing, quickly, and the government must move fast to secure the health and well-being of our seniors for generations to come. OLTCA and our members are committed to working with the government to close this gap and meet the needs of our seniors with quality long-term care homes and services.

Investments in new spaces must be accompanied by government leadership to build a new workforce centered on the needs of residents. COVID-19 has exacerbated the longstanding critical staffing shortage, and it requires partnership across the healthcare system with residents, families, labour and government to solve. Only with a skilled and professional workforce, supported through government investment, and the flexibility to advance innovative practices, will we get this done.”

-30-

Contact: media@oltca.com