

Long-Term Care in Ottawa: We Need Change Now!

The Council
on Aging
of Ottawa



Le Conseil sur
le vieillissement
d'Ottawa

Quality long-term care (LTC) is everyone's concern. Too often long-term care is ignored until someone needs it. The current situation is not working for seniors, for unpaid caregivers, for people waiting in hospitals and at home for long-term care, for staff who work in LTC and for the rest of the health system that is left to pick up bits and pieces of needed care. The Council on Aging wants to see long-term care change now in Ottawa, in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada.

Our Vision

That long-term care residents live in a safe, home-like environment where they are treated with respect and dignity.

To make this happen,

- funding must support staffing levels which meet the care needs of all residents
- wait times must be guaranteed and all barriers that delay timely admission be removed
- the sector must be recognized and respected as an integral and vital part of the health care system and be affordable for residents

Long-term care homes are places where adults can live and receive

- help with most of all daily activities and
- access to 24-hour nursing and personal care.¹

These homes are licensed by the Ministries and they determine the number and location of all LTC beds in Ontario.

In Ottawa (three central sub-regions of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)), there are

28 LTC homes with

4,488 regular long-stay beds

254 specialized long-stay beds

120 short-stay beds

As of October 2019,

3,560 people were waiting for these

4,488 regular long-stay beds.

¹ Government of Ontario. (2019). *Long-Term Care overview*. Retrieved from ontario.ca/page/about-long-term-care

Our Priorities for Long-Term Care



Provide more care

Fund more direct care staff (RN, RPN, PSW and other health workers) in LTC with a regulated minimum number of care hours/resident appropriate to the complexity of care needed.



Plan for beds

Ensure that enough LTC beds are available to meet current and future needs and that all beds meet Ministry standards.



Pay attention to at-risk seniors

Monitor all barriers that reduce or delay access to LTC and while seniors wait for care.



Promote innovation and quality

Regulate and manage LTC in a manner that promotes innovation and continuous quality improvement for residents and staff.