

SURVEY CONFIRMS CONCERNS FOR LONG-TERM CARE IN ONTARIO

TORONTO, April 29, 2021 - Trained Personal Support Workers who have full time jobs with benefits including sick days are key to the improvement and recovery of the Long-Term Care sector, staffing levels adequate to provide a minimum of 4 hours of care per resident by December 2022, on-site unannounced inspections are recommendations from a Spring 2021 survey, [*Long Term Care in Ontario*](#), of 1272 respondents covering 195 towns and cities in Ontario.

The survey was done by CFUW Stratford in cooperation with CFUW chapters of Windsor, Oakville and Kitchener-Waterloo. These are members of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ontario Council, a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 49 chapters across the province, which is affiliated with the national CFUW which has NGO consultative status with the United Nations.

There is certainly no lack of recognition that the state of Long-Term Care (LTC) in Ontario was woefully inadequate long before COVID-19. Political parties of all stripes at both provincial and federal levels have been complicit in funding cuts, increased privatization, government neglect and indifference. While fatalities in LTC have been declining since residents have begun to receive vaccines, this survey of well over 1000 people from across the province, proves that Ontario voters believe that the state of our homes for elders presents a grave humanitarian crisis.

Staffing of our LTC facilities is considered a hugely important factor. An overwhelming majority do not believe that fully budgeting for adequate individual care should be delayed until 2024. There is also distinct recognition that trained Personal Service Workers who have full time jobs with benefits including sick days are key to improvement and recovery in this sector.

The importance of on-site, unannounced inspections is highlighted, with the strong belief that the consequences for failing to meet requirements should be meaningful. The need to review and implement provincial and national standards is seen as urgent.

While most believed that Long Term Care should not be profit-driven, few of the respondents commented that care could be for profit as long as yet-to-be defined standards were met.

The need for improvements in Long Term Care must not be understated or forgotten as the province turns to other critical issues during this pandemic.

To push for reforms, CFUW will convene a National Town Hall on Long Term Care on May 4, 2021, 1-3pm EDT, registration at cutt.ly/LTC-action.

Background:

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 49 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with the national CFUW, which has 100 clubs from coast to coast.

Our mandate is to promote education and life-long learning, to encourage the participation of members in their communities and to enhance the status of women and girls.

Our main concerns include universal health care, high quality public education, a clean safe environment, the economic security of women as well as the prevention of violence against women.

Quotes from the Survey:

Understaffed, underpaid, inadequate space.

The more important issue for me is that there are federal and provincial standards for LTC that are based on best health care, gerontology input and compassion. Then these standards must be precisely and clearly written, imposed, surveyed several times a year with unannounced inspections followed by public ratings of facilities and immediate imposition of significant fines for any violation. If standards are adhered to, whether the home is public, private, for profit or not will be less important when every resident is well cared for.

We need to be looking at other models of care. There are models elsewhere in the world that we should be emulating.

For more information, please connect with
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