



HOME CARE IN ONTARIO

January 2020

Please note that long term care in Ontario is a very complicated issue, more than what a two-page summary can provide. If you require more information, please see the Resources listed below.

Health Care and home care (plus long term care and public health cuts) were listed as the priority issue in the 2019 Ontario Council Survey of issues.

What is the issue?

The need for more home care services to ease the demands hospital and long-term care stays.

The need for more Personal Support Workers (PSWs), nurses and therapists.

Currently:

- Home care for Ontario residents is a mixture of public and private services. As of 2017 publicly funded home care services are provided by the Local Health Integration Network (LHINs).
- The Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health via the new single health agency, Ontario Health, is developing a new community-based system, the Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)¹. The aim of these is to deliver a coordinated continuum of care to a certain locale. These OHTs should ultimately coordinate services from front line physicians to home care and palliative care needs, etc.
- The last statistics available for home care are for 2016. All statistics show an increase in need with an ageing population.²
- Statistics Canada: 1 in 5 Canadians should be 65 and older in 2024.
- Similar to long-term care, the need is increasing, but the staff are leaving, becoming stressed and burnt out.
- The cost for home care services are 20 times less than a hospital bed.³
- Home Care Ontario summarizes 12 recommendations⁴ concerning home care in its 2019 Pre-Budget submissions. – Additional fund for PSWs, 1% of the health budget for home care.
- The 2017 federal budget allotted monies specifically for the provinces for home care.⁵

What to do:

Monitor the LHINs within your area.

Monitor your local Ontario Health Team as they evolve.

Write MPPs to ask questions concerning Home Care and the funding necessary for them to do their work.

Ask if the federal money promised for Home Care in the 2017 budget has come to Ontario?

¹ Ontario Health Teams <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/12/ontario-introduces-24-ontario-health-teams-across-the-province-to-provide-better-connected-care.html>

² Home Care Ontario <https://www.homecareontario.ca/home-care-services/facts-figures/publiclyfundedhomecare>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Home Care Ontario https://www.homecareontario.ca/docs/default-source/ohca-submissions/homecareontario_prebudgetsubmission_jan2019-final.pdf?sfvrsn=8

⁵ Government of Canada, 2017 <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2017/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html>

CFUW POLICY SUPPORTS:

...extend home care services to individuals beyond those identified in the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada 2002 (Romanow Report), to include the elderly, the chronically ill and/or disabled; and...to ensure that the provision of home care for both acute care and chronic care patients become an integral part of the Canada Health Act. **(Inclusion of Home Care Services under the Canada Health Act 2005)**

... to establish methods to ensure that there be regular, appropriate and effective accountability, communication and collaboration in the delivery of quality home care in a cost-efficient manner. **(Accountability in Home Care Delivery 2005)**

... to define criteria for appropriate remuneration and, in addition, to fund services at a level which will provide adequate wages and other incentives to Homemakers. **(Crisis in the Homemaker Program 1989)**

... (to) urge the federal, provincial and territorial to work collaboratively to implement the recommendations of the Romanow Commission *Building on Values; The Future of Health Care in Canada (2002)*. **(Health Care Delivery Services Romanow Report, 2003)**

Home care is found in recommendations #5 & 34

“Home care services for post-acute patients, including coverage for medication management and rehabilitation services, should be included under the Canada Health Act; and palliative home care services to support people in their last six months of life should also be included under the Canada Health Act.”

RESOURCES:

Guardian Angels Program, support and advocacy service for residents and their caregivers:

<http://www.seniorguardianangels.com/>

Home Care Ontario, a membership organization representing providers of home care:

<https://www.homecareontario.ca/>

Local Health Integration Network, local government agencies to currently coordinating parts of the health care system: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/lhin/facts.aspx>

Ontario Health Coalition, a membership organization of individual members and other organizations:

<https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/category/key-issues/home-care/>

Ontario Health Teams, newly created (2019) government agencies to provide a continuum of services:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/12/ontario-introduces-24-ontario-health-teams-across-the-province-to-provide-better-connected-care.html>