



LONG TERM 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 long-term care (plus home care and public health cuts) were listed as the priority issue in the 2019 Ontario Council survey of issues.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Insufficient number of beds for an aging population; insufficient support to staff handling very complex issues.

DID YOU KNOW...?

From the Ontario Long-Term Care Association¹

- 2019 - currently 626 LTC homes in Ontario that house over 78,000 residents.
- Between 2011 and 2018, the number of long-term care beds in Ontario increased by only 0.8 per cent while the population of Ontarians aged 75 and over grew by 20 per cent.
- 90% of residents have some cognitive impairment; 86% require extensive help with daily activities

From the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario²

- The wait list for a long-term care bed reached nearly 35,000 individuals in 2018-19, a 78 per cent increase from 2011-12; projected to peak at 40,200 Ontarians in 2020.
- Even with the 15,000 new beds, an additional 55,000 new long-term care beds will be needed by 2033 to maintain the wait list at approximately 36,900 individuals.
- Patients waiting in hospitals for a long-term care bed occupied 340,000 hospital bed days in 2017-18

From Health Quality Ontario³

- As of July 2019, the wait time was the median of 163 days from the community and 94 from a hospital.

Currently:

- July 2019, the wait list for long-term care was 36,245, 441 higher than June and 2460 higher than the previous year.⁴
- The Ontario 2019 budget “committed to adding 15,000 new long-term care beds in five years and upgrading an additional 15,000 long-term care beds to modern design standards. And today, over half of these beds are already allocated”
- Funding cuts that were due to happen in October have been extended to March 31, 2020 (for renovations) and until Dec.31, 2020 (for wages). Province hoping to develop new programs for funding⁵
- Combined with funding issues, the major ‘crisis’ is the shortage of Personal Care Workers (PSWs).
- The need for a staffing plan, with both financial and human resources help, has been noted by:

What to do:

- Write to MPPs supporting the concerns of the organizations re: funding and staffing
- Connect local officials about the situation within your area. Support your municipalities.
- Tell your MPPs
- Study other options for your community – supportive housing, home care. Is there a more creative way to support those needing long-term care?

¹ Ontario Long-Term Care Association <https://www.oltca.com/oltca/OLTCA/Public/LongTermCare/FactsFigures.aspx>

² Financial Accountability Office: *Long-Term Care Homes Program: A Review of the Plan to Create 15,000 New Long-Term Care Beds in Ontario*. October 30, 2019 <https://www.fao.on.org/en/Blog/media/MR-Long-Term-Care-2019>

³ Health Quality Ontario <https://www.hqontario.ca/System-Performance/Long-Term-Care-Home-Performance>

⁴ Toronto Star, Number of seniors waiting ... <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/09/16/more-seniors-than-ever-waiting-for-long-term-care-beds-in-ontario.html>

⁵ Multiple news articles Sept.20, 2019 – October 2019

Both Ontario Long-Term Care Association in its 2019 Pre-Budget Brief⁶ and AdvantAGE Ontario in its 2020 Pre-Budget Brief⁷

Ontario Health Coalition in its 2019 Report, *Caring in Crisis: Ontario Long-Term PSW Shortage* also asks for “restored capacity in public hospitals to avoid offloading patients whose care needs are too complex for long-term care”⁸

- Association of Municipalities Ontario, *Backgrounders, Long Term Care*
- Ontario Nurses Association (ONA)⁹ “Ontario’s long-term care system and its care of residents have been declining. Our system is grossly understaffed, underfunded and is in desperate need of improvements. ... ONA has advocated with governments of every stripe for more than 45 years to ensure those needing quality long-term care have access to it.” Funding needs to go to front-line staff.

CFUW POSITION:

While we do not have specific CFUW policy concerning long-term care, we do have policy supporting the Sustainable Development Goals:

From the World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/ageing/sdgs/en/>

“Goal 3:

... A transformation of health and social systems from a disease-only focus towards the provision of integrated and person-centred care will have the greatest impact and requires attention to the following: ...

- developing robust, integrated systems of health and long-term care orientated around maximizing function in older age; ...”

RESOURCES:

AdvantAGE, a not-for-profit dealing with services for seniors <http://www.advantageontario.ca/>

Association of Municipalities Ontario <http://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Backgrounders/2019/LongTermCareMunicipalChallengesinOntario.aspx>

Financial Accountability Office of Ontario <https://www.fao-on.org/en/>

Health Quality of Ontario, government agency tracking health <https://www.hqontario.ca/>

Ontario Health Coalition, province-wide organization of members, agencies, groups for public health care <https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/category/key-issues/long-term-care-chronic-care/>

Ontario Long-Term Care Association, association of long-term providers <https://www.oltca.com/OLTCA/>

Ontario Nurses Association, *RNs in Long-term Care: A Portrait, July 2019* https://www.ona.org/wp-content/uploads/ona_ltreport_2019.pdf

Registered Nurses of Ontario <https://rno.ca/category/topics/long-term-care>

Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain, 1st Interim Report from Premier’s Council, Jan.2019

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/premiers_council/report.aspx

Mike Crawley, Some of Ontario’s biggest hospitals are filled beyond capacity nearly every day, new data reveals, CBC Investigates, Jan.22,2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-hospital-hallway-medicine-healthcare-beyond-capacity-1.5420434>

⁶ OLTC Long-term care that works. For seniors. For Ontario 2019 Budget Submission http://betterseniorscare.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/OLTCA_Budget_Submission_FINAL.pdf

⁷ AdvantAGE, Pre-Budget Brief 2020 http://www.advantageontario.ca/AAO/Content/Resources/Advantage_Ontario/2020-Pre-Budget.aspx

⁸ Ontario Health Coalition, *Caring in Crisis: Ontario Long-Term PSW Shortage*, 2019

<https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/report-caring-in-crisis-ontarios-long-term-care-psw-shortage/>

⁹ Ontario Nurses Association, <https://www.ona.org/advocate-long-term-care/>