



Long-Term Care under the Canada Health Act

Background - "Don't let them tell you it can't be done!"

Covid 19 has revealed systemic and tragic shortfalls in the care of our elderly and vulnerable in Long Term Care Homes (LTC). The lack of quality-controlled national standards of care, the vagaries of the 13 individual provincial and territorial governments' policies and funding decisions, and the extraction of profit, have caused horrific and preventable outcomes.

We need legislative reform to make the same kind of national standards and funding accessible to LTC as there is to hospitals. We are calling to extend the **joint federal/provincial jurisdiction** which is already in place under the Canada Health Act (Medicare) to cover LTC. We support the standards of care articulated by our sister club in Oakville but without the protection of the Canada Health Act, there will be no universal framework. With your advocacy, it can be done!

Quick Facts

- LTC residents accounted for 81% of all reported COVID-19 deaths in Canada, compared with an average of 42% in other OECD countries.
- In Canada, the mortality rate for those infected with COVID-19 in LTC was about 35% as of May 25.
- More than 9,650 LTC staff members were infected by COVID-19, representing more than 10% of Canada's total cases.
- Huge disparity in care levels in general and covid outcomes in particular between provinces. *CIHI Snapshot June 2020*
- Over the last decade, over \$1.7 billion was taken in dividends, bonuses, stock buy-outs from LTC business run by the largest three corporations in Ontario. *The Toronto Star, Sat. May 16, 2020*
- Chronic understaffing means tens of thousands of people are even now in danger. *Profit, Power, and Politics: The Story of Long Term Care in Ontario: Spindel*

Relevant Legislation & Canada's Obligations

Canada Health Act, RSC 1985, c C-6. In order that a province may qualify for a full cash contribution ... the health care insurance plan of the province must, ... satisfy the criteria described in ... the following matters:

- (a) public administration;
- (b) comprehensiveness;
- (c) universality;
- (d) portability; and
- (e) accessibility.

Long-Term Care under the Canada Health Act – 2020

Adopted at the 2020 SGM

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial, territorial, and indigenous governments of Canada to create universal, accessible, regulated, respectful, and quality long-term care for the immediate and growing needs of elderly and vulnerable persons in Canada by placing long term care under the Canada Health Act.



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Take Action

- Write as a club to both local MP and MPP
 - Write as individuals to federal cabinet: Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Minister of Seniors
 - Write as individuals to federal and provincial opposition shadow cabinets
- Letters to news media
 - Op-ed and or letters to the editor to local paper
 - Letters to national media
- Contact clubs with recent related resolutions
 - What are they doing now?
 - How can we help/join in?
- Contact clubs which are home to cabinet ministers and shadow cabinet ministers
 - Would they consider writing LTC letter with our co-signature?

OUTREACH TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Examples:

- Montreal Council of Women (NCWC)
- Council of Canadians – literature, sign petition
- Ontario Health Coalition
 - Endorsed letters
 - Join events such as Day of Action
- National and provincial unions

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