



Letter sent via email May 2, 2021 to the addresses below

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 (LTC) sector, staffing levels adequate to provide a minimum of 4 hours of care per resident by December 2022, and on-site unannounced inspections are recommendations from a Spring 2021 survey, [Long Term Care in Ontario](#), with 1272 respondents covering 195 towns and cities in Ontario, from Ottawa to Oakville to Stratford and Windsor.

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.

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. We wonder why the deadline is 2024, and not earlier. While we also recognize that funding is being provided for training, given that training is only a year in length, again why the 2024 date?

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 was 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 for both non-profit and for-profit facilities.

The majority of Ontarians surveyed believe that Long Term Care should not be profit-driven. Only 2.8% of respondents disagree, while some commented that care could be for profit as long as yet-to-be defined standards were fully and continually 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. After decades of neglect for this sector, now is the time to act.

As one respondent stated, “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.”

CFUW Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 49 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with CFUW, a national non-partisan organization with clubs in all Canadian provinces. 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 high quality public education, universal health care, a clean safe environment, the economic security of women as well as the prevention of violence against women.

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LONG TERM CARE IN ONTARIO

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