

## LONG TERM CARE



The COVID pandemic revealed inhumane living conditions in some Ontario long-term care (LTC) homes. As of Feb.28, 2022 there had been [4,291 deaths in LTC homes](#). The pandemic has also exposed significant [long-standing challenges](#) in the long-term care sector which have resulted in a [Long-Term Care Commission](#) and subsequent recommendations focused on staffing, quality of resident care, and infrastructure. The funding for LTC has not kept pace with the increasingly complex health care needs of the residents or the higher proportion of seniors in the population.

### What's currently being offered:

- [Bill 37 Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors and Building More Beds Act, 2021](#) adopted Dec.9,2021
- Funding to cover [COVID-19 related costs](#) and increased Infection control
- Commitment to [four hours of daily care per resident by 2024-2025](#), plus [increase staffing levels](#)
- [30,000 new beds](#).
- A new [Not-for-Profit Loan Guarantee Program](#), with \$388M in lending from Infrastructure Ontario for not-for-profit long-term care home
- [Funded programs to educate personal support workers \(PSWs\) and nurses](#) and encourage bridging.
- A new [inspections program](#)

BUT the provincial funding anticipated for municipal budgeting for 2022 [had not been confirmed](#), as of end of 2021.

### What we and others would like to see:

- [Adequate support to ensure staff retention](#) with full-time work, wage parity with hospital wages, and benefits commensurate with skills and training required for the job. Conditions of work are conditions of care.
- [Increase the ratio of medical staff](#) (nurses, nurse practitioner, doctors, auxiliary care) to residents within LTC homes to address the complex health needs of residents to reduce residents being sent to hospital for assessment and treatment.
- Rigorous standards with [an inspections program](#) that is unannounced with substantial penalties.
- Develop, utilize and fund strategies to keep long-term care residents socially and physically as active as possible through [emotion-centred approaches](#) such as the [Butterfly Model](#).
- Prioritize new LTC construction funding and license renewals to [government \(municipal\) or not-for-profit facilities](#). In 2021, a number of [LTC providers with the highest COVID death](#) and illness received new 30-year licensing agreements and funding for additional beds. Ontario continues to [fund for-profit long-term care homes](#) despite pandemic findings.

### LONG TERM CARE Key Message:

The COVID pandemic revealed inhumane living conditions in some Ontario long-term care (LTC) homes. Funding for LTC has not kept pace with the increasingly complex health care needs of the residents or the higher proportion of seniors in the population.

### Questions for Candidates:

1. Will your party increase the financial support to LTC facilities and home care to attract and retain staffing to meet the needs of residents with increasingly complex health conditions?
2. Will your party prioritize funding construction of LTC not-for-profit homes that focus on resident care?
3. Will your party support an unannounced inspections program with substantial penalties?
4. Will your party investigate, develop and fund emotion-centred long term care homes?