

LONG TERM CARE & HOME CARE

Long Term Care

RTO/ERO supports the government's commitment to providing homes, within the local community where seniors can live in dignity with the highest possible quality of care. The introduction of the legislation that has the potential to improve the care to the tens of thousands of vulnerable adults occupying the 75,000 plus long-term care beds in this province is commendable. Long-term care homes are an integral part of the publicly funded health care system in Ontario. As such, they should be accessible to all Ontarians with a demonstrated need for ongoing nursing care. Required health needs, not level of income or age, should be the determinants of access to care. The principle of access must encompass recognition of the multiethnic nature of our population and the inclusion of culturally appropriate programs and services.

RTO/ERO is supportive of long-term care reform strategies that create a community culture in long-term care by mandating Family Councils and Residents Councils, allowing couples to live together in long-term care facilities in spite of the level of care required. The government will strengthen its accountability by launching a public website to provide more information about the record of care in individual homes.

Home Care

Research has shown that providing consistent primary home care is cost efficient, promotes healthy living, and allows seniors to remain in their own homes for a longer period of time. RTO/ERO believes that acute home care services provided on a short-term basis, and chronic home care services provided on a long-term basis to assist people with disabilities and chronic health problems are essential components of the primary health care system. Home Care should be a priority within the community. The provincial government is to be commended for providing funding targeted to ensure acute and chronic home care clients receive support in homemaking, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy, social work, dialysis, chemotherapy, wound management, post surgical care and dietetic services.

Proposed Action Plan

RTO/ERO believes the government must act immediately to ensure that:

- adequate, consistent and predictable funding is in place to for new beds across the province;
- funding is tied to the assessed care needs of residents;
- a range of home care services is provided to assist seniors to maintain independence, adapt to their environmental needs, and live in dignity as active members of their local community; and
- annual reporting listing the achievements and future directions related to their planned initiatives for home care is provided.

Questions

1. What assurances will your government/party give to provide long-term care facilities within a reasonable distance of the person's home community?
2. What action will your government/party take to ensure accessibility to all Ontarians with a need for ongoing care?
3. How will your government/party measure the effectiveness of acute and chronic home care?
4. When will the next phase of your government's plan to invest in acute and chronic home care be initiated?