



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION ONTARIO

RESEARCH REPORT

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN WHO HELPS RESIDENTS RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY

October 20, 2022

Right across Canada's border in Maine, there is an innovative program to help residents in nursing homes return to their own homes and/or communities. This program may demonstrate the value of a Long-term Care Ombudsman.

In Maine, the Ombudsman Program is the Referral and Advocacy Manger for Homeward Bound – a Money Follows the Person Program in that state. Staff of the Ombudsman Program meet with individuals living in nursing homes to explain the program and assist them to apply, then act as their advocate throughout the process of transition planning.

The Homeward Bound team helps to create an individualized transition plan, and the individual can choose a Transition Coordinator to work with them to help them access the necessary home and community-based services, household start-up assistance, care coordination, technology services and more so that they can leave the nursing home to a place of their choosing.

Homeward Bound also monitors to ensure the effectiveness of the transition plan for six months after the resident has returned to the community. Community Coordinators monitor and work to resolve any issues to ensure that the plan is successful.

Ontario would benefit from both the creation of a Long-Term Care Ombudsman office and a Homeward Bound program to modernize its long-term care system.

REFERENCE

Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. (2022). Homeward Bound: A Program to Help Nursing Home Residents Transition to the Community.

<https://www.maineombudsman.org/services/residents/homeward-bound.aspx>