



JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT CALLING FOR END TO PROFIT IN LONG TERM CARE

**Issued by:
Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities
Seniors for Social Action Ontario
Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations**

We are calling on the Government of Ontario to begin today to reduce its reliance on for-profit companies and chains in both the long term care institutional sector and in Home Care and to downsize, and ultimately eliminate, facilities operated for profit.

We are further asking that the Government of Ontario work with municipalities, non-profit senior's agencies, religious, cultural and other non-profit organizations to take over the provision of long term care services and supports, and to ensure more individualized care at home as well as more home-like residential environments.

BACKGROUND

A History of Issues with Profit in Long Term Care

The Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto stated "in 1984 a task force report prepared for the Canadian Medical Association called for the elimination of 'care for profit' institutions because of concerns over quality of care in nursing homes" (Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, 1984: (v)).

This year a study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that "for-profit status was associated with both the extent of an outbreak in a LTC home...and the number of resident deaths...compared with non-profit homes (Stall et al, 2020).

In 2002, the Romanow Commission in its report *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care In Canada* stated "the Commission believes a line should be drawn between ancillary and direct health care services and that direct health care services should be delivered in public and not-for-profit health care facilities"(Commission on the Future of Health Care In Canada, 2002:7).

Another study conducted by Dr. Peter Tanuseputro, research project lead at the Bruyere Research Institute (BRI) and The Ottawa Hospital published in the Journal of the American Medical Director's Association, showed that "for-profit homes have a mortality rate that is 16 per cent higher and a hospitalization rate that is 33 per cent higher than their non-profit counterparts". The study was conducted during the 2010 to 2012 period (IC/ES, 2015).

For decades prior to the pandemic, there have also been press reports outlining substandard care in facilities operated for profit (Boyle, 2015; CBC News, 2015) as well as a failure to make safety upgrades to their buildings over at least a twenty year period (Pedersen et al, 2020).

All of these deficiencies have been further highlighted during this pandemic as for-profits were found to have far worse outcomes than non-profits while paying out millions to shareholders (Oved et al, 2020).

Present Day Issues

Over decades, unions representing the workers providing direct care to residents have also called for an end to profit making in long term care citing for-profits as having the worst outcomes, especially during the pandemic. The most recent call came this summer (Perkel, 2020).

Academics and researchers are echoing these concerns (CBC Radio, 2020).

The military was sent in to primarily for-profit facilities and details of the conditions they found there were horrifying (Carter, 2020).

It was particularly disturbing to learn that while residents were suffering and staffing had been well below acceptable levels in some cases for years as shown in inspection reports, with care and linen supplies also lacking, companies were making millions in profit (Tumilty, 2020).

It has now also become clear that for-profit companies have, over the years, wielded far too much influence on successive governments, and therefore their agendas, versus the agendas of residents and their families, have been adopted by one government after another (Paling, 2020).

Families have had few options, in the absence of effective inspection by government and alternatives to placement in these institutions, but to bring lawsuits when care endangered their loved ones. Now government has moved to even curb that potential remedy by raising the bar on what constitutes negligence (D'Mello, October 20, 2020).

After also reviewing the testimony of individuals, government officials, and organizations that have appeared before the COVID-19 Long Term Care Commission, Seniors for Social Action Ontario, Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities and the Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations believe that there is more than enough evidence for both the Commission and the government to eliminate profit-making in long term care. Older adults with health challenges and disabilities are not commodities and should not be subjected to a corporate model of care.

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