



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

POLICY ON AGING IN PLACE

January 2025

The Problem

Frail older adults in Ontario are being mass institutionalized due to a lack of non-profit in-home and community-based residential care assisted living options. The Ford government has used taxpayer funding to enrich owners of long-term care companies rather than invest, as most progressive jurisdictions have done, in these non-profit options. In the U.S. nursing homes now have empty beds because of the funding shift there to home care (Welsh, 2024). Elders remain the only group currently mass institutionalized in Ontario except for convicted felons.

A secondary problem is that young people are being pitted against older people because of ageist public discourse and policies suggesting that elders are responsible for young people's difficulties in accessing housing. That is not the case. Older adults cannot find accessible housing options when developers are favoring building large, inaccessible homes.

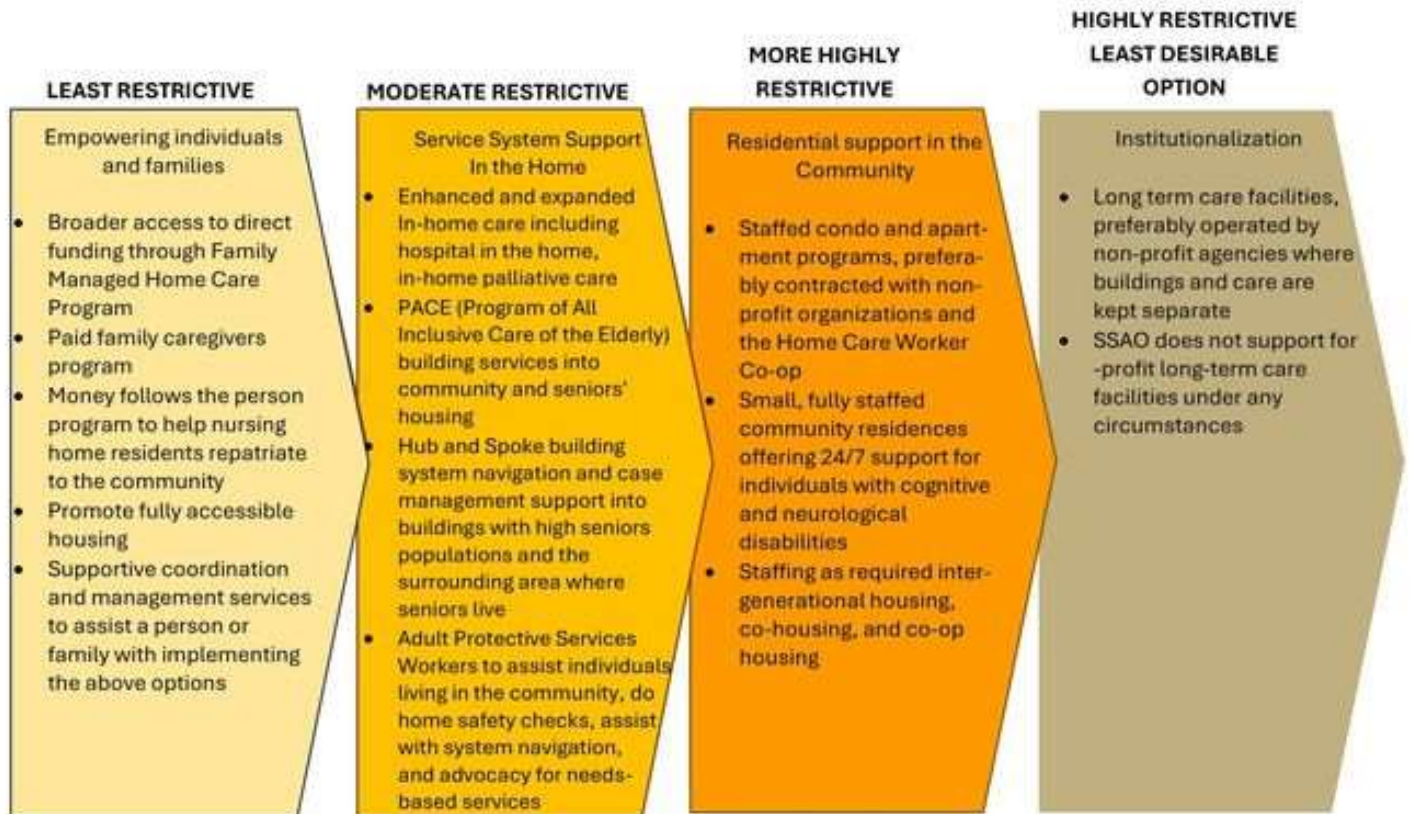
What Seniors for Social Action Ontario Is Advocating

Not more funding, but redirecting funding away from building more institutions to funding:

- Evidence-supported programs like PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care of the Elderly) which brings integrated care to older adults where they live in community housing and other naturally occurring retirement communities;
- Hub and Spoke which provides system navigation and support services to elders where they live;
- Intensive Home Care tied directly to individuals' needs rather than the system's needs by funding non-profit community care agencies to provide wrap around services to keep elders at home and out of institutions;
- Removal of discriminatory criteria in the Family Managed Home Care Program, which provides direct funding for older adults and their families to organize their own care and support services;
- Paying family caregivers to support elders in cultural, Indigenous and rural communities where home care services are scarce;
- Investment in supportive housing programs delivered by non-profit organizations;
- Investment in small, non-profit memory care homes in every community at the same cost - \$201 per person per day + the same construction costs given to long-term care facilities, to acquire, renovate, and staff these homes in the community.

PROPOSED AGING CONTINUUM OF CARE – LEAST TO MOST RESTRICTIVE

Aging Care Continuum



Please note Seniors for Social Action (Ontario) supports a Person-Directed (service user and family in charge) rather than a Person-Centered (staff in charge) model as proposed by the Pioneer Network.

Please see: <https://www.pioneernetwork.net/culture-change/continuum-person-directed-culture/>

REFERENCES

Family Managed Home Care – direct funding program – criteria discriminate against older adults needing care - <https://ontariohealthathome.ca/home-care/family-managed-home-care/>

Hub and Spoke Model – Peel Senior Link – video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wMf-ApnVZw&t=615s>

Ontario Government construction costs for institutions: “the government recently more than doubled its proposed construction funding subsidies from an average of \$240 to \$560K per bed, or \$14 to \$34B overall” – NIA Report – Pg 11 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c2fa7b03917eed9b5a436d8/t/678158265129b96131097144/1736529960268/Small+Homes+Report.pdf>

PACE Video – Durham Region - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7L3I6myexk&t=2960s and Burlington - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN2wAaa7s0E&t=23s>

Paid Family Caregiver Program – in place in Newfoundland - <https://westernhealth.nl.ca/home-support-services/>

Supportive Housing Programs - <https://ontariohealthathome.ca/supportive-living/supportive-housing/>

Welsh, M. (December 24, 2024). Her pension wasn't enough to cover Toronto rent. Then she found a lifeline in a different kind of housing. https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/her-pension-wasn-t-enough-to-cover-toronto-rent-then-she-found-a-lifeline-in/article_4c81e3d4-bbf4-11ef-9c22-8324d6d0142d.html

Woodgreen’s Cluster Care Model - <https://www.woodgreen.org/blog/cluster-care-woodgreen-better-and-cheaper-way-to-care-for-seniors>

