



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA ROLLS OUT SMALL CARE HOMES!

March 30, 2026

While the Ministry of Long-Term Care in Ontario appears to have let the idea of developing small neighborhood elder care homes slip off their radar, British Columbia is moving in exactly the opposite direction.

Vancouver Coastal Health is moving part of its long-term care system into staffed homes in regular neighborhoods to deal with increasing wait lists for long-term care.

Ideally small homes should have no more than 6 residents, and B.C. is looking at 10 per home, but this is the first province in Canada to decide that small care homes funded and operated in partnership with municipalities should be an important part of its residential long-term care system.

The Health Authority is currently working with B.C. Housing and local governments in Vancouver, North Vancouver, and Richmond to purchase existing houses in regular neighborhoods and retrofitting them to operate as licensed long-term care sites.

Residents will have private rooms, with shared kitchens, living rooms and outdoor space, and the homes will be staffed 24/7.

British Columbia Gets It – Ontario Doesn't

B.C.'s Health Minister gets it, saying that the model is meant to “preserve dignity and connection” and “they [small homes] are an important part of B.C.'s continuum of seniors' care, bridging the gap between independent living and long-term care, and providing the right level of support as people's needs change.”

Vancouver Coastal Health's Vice-President of community services pointed out that this household-style model is “evidence-based and better suited for many seniors, especially those with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia....what we know ... with all the research being done, is that the best way for caring for seniors is in a home-like environment” - exactly what Seniors for Social Action Ontario has been telling the Ontario government for years.

Now if we could only get the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care to see the value of being able to bring more long-term care beds online much more quickly by also acquiring, renovating, and staffing regular homes in the community, while creating much more normalized, home-like environments in individuals' existing neighborhoods.

See: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/small-care-homes-vancouver-coastal-health-9.7079462>

If you support the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care also acquiring, renovating, and funding small neighborhood homes for elder care, please write and tell the Minister of Long-Term Care, copied to the Premier.

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