



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

INFORMATION REPORT

FOCUS ON EXISTING ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES AS A MODEL FOR INTEGRATED CARE

April 13, 2026

In a recent survey SSAO members asked for more detailed information about assisted living housing models. This article outlines several of these that are currently functioning as alternatives to long-term care institutions.

HALTON COMMUNITY ASSISTED HOUSING WITH PACE WELLNESS HUBS

Halton Region has led the province in the development of assisted living options for lower income clients. The newest building is in Oakville at 265 Kerr Street. It includes 52 units, including 22 supportive housing units, and was built in 18 months as a passive house certified multi-residential building with a Community Wellness Hub on the ground floor provided by the non-profit Links2Care.

All three levels of government contributed to this project with Halton Region providing \$16.4 million, the Ontario government providing \$14.9 million, and the Federal government providing \$9.3 million in funding.

This is a rent geared to income building with residents paying approximately 30% of their income in monthly rent.

The Ontario Health Team funds staffing.

See: <https://www.oakvillenews.org/local-news/halton-region-opens-new-senior-focused-housing-complex-in-oakville-11190854>



EWART ANGUS HOUSE, TORONTO

In the 1960's, Ewart Angus had a vision of building housing for older adults in Toronto, specifically to support people living with dementia. In 1971, he bequeathed funds to the United Church of Canada, to be used for seniors housing in North Toronto. In 1993, work began on plans to construct a 5-story mixed-use building with housing for seniors with dementia as well as accommodations for independent seniors. Construction began in 1996 under the direction of St. George's United Church and Ewart Angus Homes Inc.

From its opening in 1999, SPRINT Senior Care has operated a 24-hour dementia care facility, providing assisted/supportive housing to older adults. This unique model is a purpose-built, small-scale supportive housing initiative for older adults with mild to moderate dementia who require daily support, delivered in a mixed-use residential building. The architectural layout, pod structure, and unit design are specifically tailored to the needs of people living with dementia. The model reflects a deliberate effort to create a safe, home-like environment that prioritizes predictable routines, relational care, and a familiar setting for those with cognitive impairments.

The top two floors of the five-story building are dedicated for Ewart Angus SPRINT Home, while the first three floors operate as standard rental housing. Ewart Angus SPRINT Home consists of 20 private units with private washrooms organized into four pods of five residents, each with a kitchen, den, balcony and walking space. The home provides 24/7 PSW support, activation professionals, and a manager working in partnership with a home-based interdisciplinary primary care team. Volunteers also provide support including daily walks and other wellness activities.

Ewart Angus SPRINT Home:

- Enhances quality of life and continuity of semi-independent living
- Reduced caregiver strain, indirectly alleviating pressure on the health system
- Lower cost compared to hospital, LTC, and private retirement homes.

The model is partially funded by Ontario Health and supplemented via monthly client fees, including costs for rent that are covered by the client.

See: <https://www.sprintseniorcare.org/programs-and-services/ewart-angus-sprint-home/>



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN THE NORTHWEST WITH ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES BUILT IN

Community Services for Independence North West supportive housing services include attendant care and are available in Kenora. The agency works in partnership with other organizations and funders including Ontario Health, the Handicapped Action Group, Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario, Spinal Chord Injury Ontario, and Inclusion Canada. http://csinw.ca/?page_id=531

Henesy Terrace in Kenora has 24 hour a day services onsite in rent-geared-to income housing for individuals with physical disabilities in association with the Kenora Municipal Nonprofit Housing Corporation. The building has 13 apartments, five of which have two bedrooms, equipped with an emergency response pendant monitored by staff on-site.

See: http://csinw.ca/?page_id=58



MIKANA RIDGE, KENORA – MULTI-SERVICE ASSISTED LIVING

In October, 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care announced that it was investing \$4.5 million “to build dedicated spaces for health care at a new seniors’ housing complex in Kenora. The mixed-use complex will include 56 independent living suites for residents as well as dedicated health spaces to provide a range of specialized services and supports on site to ensure residents and the surrounding community can receive the right care in the right place, instead of in a hospital or long-term care home.”

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002387/ontario-building-new-seniors-housing-complex-in-kenora>

Mikana Ridge has one and two bedroom and studio apartments – some completely accessible.

This was the first time the Ministry of Long-Term Care funded assisted living rather than long-term care institutions. “The Minister of Long-Term Care announcing that day \$4.5

million as a contribution to this building, and **that marked the first time in housing where Long Term Care is also a funder to capital,**” Wall stated after the official opening of the building. **“So, this project is really, for all intents and purposes, a pilot and a best practice in the province.”**

<https://acadiabroadcasting.ca/ribbon-cutting-takes-place-for-the-miikana-ridge-seniors-housing-complex/>



Ministry of Long-Term Care Now Claims It Lacks the Legislative and Policy Framework to Fund Assisted Living It Funded less than four years ago

Today this same Ministry claims that it lacks the legislative and policy framework to fund exactly the same model as it did in Kenora less than four years later - choosing instead to fund more institutions. There appears to have been a political decision not to build on the success of this project by expanding this model across the province.

The cost of Mikana Ridge was \$28 million in total, with CMHC contributing \$16.8 million plus an additional \$5.5 million from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with the Kenora District Service Board and the City of Kenora also contributing to funding. The Government of Ontario contributed \$4.5 million.

Today Build Canada Homes and CMHC are offering very flexible funding to assist municipalities and non-profits to build exactly these kinds of assisted living residences, but too few are taking them up on it.

There is simply not enough political pressure coming from older adults for them to do so.

COMMENTARY

Many cities, towns, regions and non-profits are telling SSAO that they are not in the housing business, and many also have no comprehensive housing plans to accommodate a massive and growing demographic of older adults. This, in spite of a broad range of flexible funding now available through Build Canada Homes and CMHC.

They are getting away with this because older adults have not raised their voices and demanded this of their elected officials in sufficient numbers.

We need everyone to speak up to back up SSAO's work in advocating for these and other kinds of residential alternatives to long-term care institutions.

All political parties in Ontario need to hear from us as do Mayors and local Councillors.

Long-Term Care Operators Are Not Shy in Advancing their Agendas

The predominantly for-profit nursing home industry in Ontario is not shy in advancing its political and funding agendas with elected officials.

If older adults don't speak up and tell MPPs of all political parties that they don't want to be institutionalized, government will keep giving the long-term care industry money that could be used for better alternatives.

The formula is simple – no public demand, no political change.

SSAO has done a Zoom presentation on how to brief your MPP's found on our YouTube channel should you wish to refer to it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILPLqWEIRQ8>

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Comments can be sent to seniorsactionontario@gmail.com