



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

ADVOCACY INFORMATION BULLETIN

NON-PROFIT SERVICE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS JOIN SSAO IN CALLING FOR ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS WITH CARE BUILT IN

October 15, 2026

For the past six years, Seniors for Social Action Ontario has urged the Ontario government to provide funding for non-profit organizations and municipalities to establish assisted living apartments that incorporate built-in care and services, including PACE Wellness Hubs. <https://www.atyourpace.ca/>

Please see:

Assisted Living Housing Models:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_4c620c859ed944e5b6da3f451c76df13.pdf

Residential Options for individuals with cognitive or neurological disabilities:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_80fe5923d5b3460d9e828057979ca0b7.pdf

Housing is Health Care:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_9fcb4fe02eea45d3b49a2d275a740766.pdf

Time for Action on Supportive and Assisted Living Models for Older Adults in Ontario:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_83efb1cfladd4316ab131725994dbce8.pdf

Challenging Non-profits and Municipalities to get involved in Supportive Housing:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_5c1d80581c6743e6a11e688896519d4a.pdf

Brief on the need for small homes in Ontario:

https://mcusercontent.com/36363a028fc1d1a14890ff48e/files/610e4273-7631-c044-84e6-f551d8b65aa1/SSAO_Small_Neighbourhood_Homes_Project.pdf

ADVOCACY PAYS OFF - FORMATION OF AN ADVOCACY COALITION FOR ASSISTED LIVING

Recently, AdvantAge Ontario, the Ontario Community Support Association, and Woodgreen Community Services have come together with a shared goal of advocating for residential support services to prevent individuals from being placed in long-term care facilities.

In their report titled Enhanced Assisted Living Expansion in Ontario, these organizations, in alignment with the content of previous briefs and reports (above) by Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO), assert that the limited choices currently available for individuals facing frailty should extend beyond just home care or long-term care institutions.

There exists a significant gap for those in need of around-the-clock supervision and/or support—a “missing middle” in the care continuum.

The proposed solution emphasizes the Enhanced Assisted Living (EAL) models that integrate affordable, accessible housing with dependable, on-site care and assistance. These models feature small, clustered living environments within a communal environment, providing flexible community support and 24/7 access to care and services. Details here: <https://www.woodgreen.org/enhanced-assisted-living-expansion-in-ontario>

ADVOCACY FOR SMALL HOMES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE

The report also highlights the critical role of non-profit small homes situated within their communities, which offer 24/7 staff support to older adults needing additional assistance with daily activities and safety supervision. It references a successful small home model in France as a positive example.

<https://www.colivingawards.com/finalists/cosima-shared-housing-for-seniors-with-declining-independence>

Ontario also has successful examples, such as the Memory Lane small home in Richmond Hill, which provides residential support specifically for individuals living with dementia. <https://memorylanehomeliving.ca/>

SUPPORT FROM SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION ONTARIO FOR THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

SSAO endorses the following proposals outlined in the report:

- Development of a clear policy framework at the provincial level to recognize Enhanced Assisted Living as a distinct model within the continuum of housing and care.
- Establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for Enhanced Assisted Living, moving away from the currently fragmented approach across various levels and departments of government. This includes the recommended implementation of a joint Federal-Provincial bundled funding model for EAL.
- Creation of standardized outcome measures and data systems to evaluate the effectiveness and value of EAL.
- Development of a Central Repository for EAL models within Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health

POSITION OF SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION ONTARIO

While SSAO supports the core recommendations of the report promoting assisted living options with integrated 24/7 support services—allowing older individuals to maintain the privacy and security of their own apartments—it does not endorse the call for segregated and/or stigmatizing models, such as dementia villages.

The release of this report by organizations representing service providers is the first public alignment of Seniors for Social Action Ontario's long-term advocacy for assisted living residential alternatives, with the goals and advocacy activities of the non-profit services sector.

SSAO therefore congratulates Woodgreen Community Services, AdvantAge Ontario, and the Ontario Community Support Association for this policy and advocacy initiative.

*Comments on this and other SSAO articles and briefs can be sent to
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