SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

Editorial

GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL BOARD ECHOES WHAT SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION ONTARIO (SSAO) HAS BEEN SAYING FOR SEVEN YEARS

November 12, 2026

On November 9, 2026, the Globe and Mail printed an editorial entitled More Long-Term Care Beds Aren't a Blanket Solution to Seniors Care – exactly what SSAO has been saying for almost seven years now. https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-more-long-term-beds-arent-a-blanket-solution-to-seniors-care/

From the outset Doug Cartan, a co-founder of SSAO put it bluntly to the Ontario government – "you can't build your way out of the long-term care crisis".

At that time, and ever since, the Ontario government did not listen, and instead invested billions more in institutionalizing older adults in a massive waste of taxpayer funding. Had they invested then in what SSAO was recommending, Ontario would already have a 21st Century long-term care system ready to meet the demands of an aging population.

For years, SSAO has put forward the alternatives – significantly enhanced home care; assisted living apartments with PACE Wellness Hubs built in that could scale up according to residents' needs; non-profit operated small homes in every community, fully staffed for people with dementia; paid family caregivers, especially for remote and rural areas where services are not readily available; improved direct funding so that people could organize their own supports and services; increases to the non-profit community support sector to provide security checks, meals on wheels, handyperson services, personal care and friendly visiting.

SSAO FROM THE OUTSET SAID NO MORE MONEY FOR INSTITUTIONS

SSAO has sounded the alarm for years warning that continuing to invest in institutionalizing older adults is not only inhumane, it is not sustainable. The Editorials, Policy and Research briefs, and Advocacy positions are all available on SSAO's webpage under those tabs, demonstrating years long advocacy for exactly what the Globe and Mail is now calling for. https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/

THE GLOBE AND MAIL CATCHES UP

Now, finally, the Globe and Mail has caught up.

"Ontario is facing a conundrum: the cost of long-term care keeps ballooning but the capacity to meet the needs of a rapidly aging population still isn't there. The answer is to shift spending priorities from institutions such as nursing homes to more home and community-based care, an approach that is not only more cost-efficient but better aligns with the preference of Canadians."

Thank you to the Globe and Mail for this editorial.

"The province's 2026 budget projects $9.3-billion in long-term care spending, up from $8.3-billion just two years earlier. Yet further scrutiny suggests it will still fall short of meeting demand. Long-term care beds come with high infrastructure, staffing and operations costs. The province could get more bang for its buck if it prioritized ways to support healthy aging in place, including preventive health care, home care, services such as Meals on Wheels and supports for unpaid caregivers."

Yes, the Globe and Mail is exactly on point on this.

The Op Ed ends with "It is time to look beyond the confines of institutionalized care as the default for Canada's aging population, and open the door to a senior-friendly model – that also happens to be the more cost-efficient one."

Seniors for Social Action Ontario has been telling the Ontario government exactly that for the past almost seven years. Let's hope that now that the Globe and Mail Editorial Board is also onboard that the government will finally listen.

Letters of support can be sent to the Globe and Mail at letters@globeandmail.com