

## Media Release



### For Immediate Release

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**Health Minister Thanks Long Term Care Workers for Commitment to Seniors**  
*Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) applauds strong partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care*

**Markham...** Speaking to 1,200 delegates attending the Ontario Long Term Care Association's (OLTCA) convention, in Toronto Tuesday, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deb Matthews, warmly thanked long term care operators and their front line staff for their commitment to quality care of residents living in long term care homes.

She also acknowledged, as crucial, the close working relationship her ministry has with the long term care sector.

"Let's focus on our residents, let's focus on improving quality of care, let's listen to residents, let's understand what this experience is like through their eyes. And let's all work together to improve the experience for them," the Minister said.

Since elected in 2003, Minister Matthews said her government has increased yearly spending in long term care by 80 per cent, from \$2.1-billion to \$3.8-billion.

"We are getting good value for the money we are spending and we will continue to drive good value for the money we are spending," the Minister said.

OLTCA President, Lois Cormack, thanked the Minister for the partnership her ministry has with the association, noting it was reflected in this year's budget "in the significant investment you made toward improving the quality of care and delivery of services we provide to residents. We are very appreciative of that."

Minister Matthews outlined key investments affecting long term care contained in the March 29 provincial budget, including funding increases of three per cent, each year, for the next three years, an injection of \$40-million to hire 1,100 new Personal Service Workers (PSWs), and an additional \$15-million to cover the cost of new regulations that were the result of the new Long-Term Care Homes Act. The additional PSWs brings to 2,500 the total number of newly funded PSW positions since 2009.

"I am enormously proud of this budget. I am even more proud of it, given the fiscal context in which we are working," the Minister said.

Minister Matthews said she has toured a number of long term care homes in recent months and is impressed with staff.

The Passion Behind the Compassion

“I can’t tell you how much it meant to me to really see, and more importantly, feel, their commitment to quality improvement.”

Minister Matthews closed her address by saying “I am very proud of the work we do together, I want to say thank you very much for all you do every single day. Take my thanks back to your community, because it’s very important that people get thanked.”