

## Media Release



### For Immediate Release

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#### **Ontario Long Term Care Association Leads Charge on Innovation**

*Organizations, researchers and experts invited to give input to Expert Panel on innovation and long term care in Ontario*

**Markham...** The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) is leading the charge to develop an innovation strategy that will guide the sector in its delivery of care and service to residents into the future. Bringing together over two dozen renowned experts in aging care and services to form its Innovation Expert Panel, the Association will take the next five months to review submissions from people and organizations interested in innovation in the long term care sector, before issuing a report that will lay the foundation for a sector-wide innovation strategy.

The panel is comprised on an international “who’s who” list of doctors, nurses, scientists, researchers, business people and communicators. All acknowledge the importance of innovation in the long term sector.

“In today’s fast-changing healthcare and business environment, innovation will be the key to the continuing success of the long term care sector,” said OLTCA CEO Christina Bisanz. Recommendations by the panel will underpin the association’s innovation strategy, expected to be completed by year-end, Bisanz added. This initiative is the first of its kind in Canada to have been led.

Establishing the panel was a key recommendation in the Conference Board of Canada’s (CBoC) report *Towards an Innovation Strategy for Long-Term Care*, commissioned by the OLTCA last fall. An electronic copy of the report can be downloaded from the association’s website [here](#). The call for submissions is located [here](#), and information about the Innovation Expert Panel is found [here](#).

The CBoC innovation report highlights significant challenges and opportunities within the out-of-hospital continuum of care and recommends the development of a comprehensive strategy to promote:

- **internal innovation** (innovation focused on improving organizational performance)
- **sector-wide innovation** (innovation to exploit inter-organizational strengths and enhance collaboration and cooperation across the sector); and
- **system transformation** (innovation to better integrate long term care into the overall health system)

The Long Term Care Expert Panel is co-chaired by Bill Dillane, President of the Responsive Health Group and an OLTCA Board Member, and Dr. William Reichman, CEO of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. The panel will meet May through

October to explore areas ripe for innovation in long term care and aging care, including:

- Service organization and delivery
- Health human resources planning
- Planning, architecture and design
- Devices, equipment & technology
- Funding, financing and regulation

Time will be set aside at each meeting to hear directly from interested individuals and organizations on these topics.

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### **Background**

OLTCA represents the not-for-profit, charitable, municipal and private operators of 428 long term care homes that provide care to 50,000 Ontario residents. Member organizations employ