

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Home Follows Gentle Care Philosophy to Enhance Resident Quality of Life

Mississauga.... Erin Mills Lodge recently embraced the Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA) program to enhance resident care and quality of life as part of the Gentle Care philosophy that has guided the home's care and service delivery for many years.

The home highlighted this initiative to Christina Bisanz, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), during a tour of the home today.

Under the GPA program, a certified coach from Erin Mills Lodge works in partnership with an instructor from Trillium Hospital to educate staff in the GPA approach. The approach trains staff to understand and adapt to the varying behaviours' of residents with dementia, learn communication strategies to respond to escalating behavior and then how to deescalate the situation safely and with maximum quality of care.

Mary Whalen, Administrator of Erin Mills Lodge said, "the program has given staff both a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the complexities of dementia and behaviours, and enhanced expertise in providing the appropriate response."

Ms. Bisanz, who is touring a number of OLTCA member homes across Ontario, said, "this is another example of how homes are investing in and supporting their staff to provide quality care for residents with increasingly complex medical needs. Such initiatives support both quality of care and quality of life."

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

Erin Mills Lodge is an 86 bed home that has been helping meet the long term care needs of Mississauga residents since 1978.

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