

Ontario Long Term Care Association

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) is the largest provincial association representing long term care homes, and the only association that represents the full mix of long term care operators – not-for-profit, charitable, private and municipal. The Association's member homes are funded and regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and provide care, accommodation and services to thousands of Ontario's most vulnerable aging adults.

OLTCA members' priority is their residents' care, safety, comfort and dignity. The Association and its members are committed to ensuring the ways and means of providing Ontarians with the best quality of care to support and meet their health goals, as well as celebrate and enrich their lives in the residences. Member homes are also an integral part of the many communities in which they operate.

Long term care has undergone significant changes over the last number of years. At the forefront of seniors' care in Ontario, OLTCA and its members have responded by taking leadership to develop innovative programs, standards and solutions. OLTCA's member homes deliver care and services to meet the changing needs of residents and respond to the evolving demands of an integrated health system.

OLTCA's governance is provided by a member-elected Board that designates positions representing not-for-profit operators, chains, large and small operators and municipalities. This governance structure allows the Association a unique capacity to incorporate input from all operator types and to ensure solutions represent the broad sector perspective of its membership.

OLTCA Key Statistics:

- OLTCA's members include 430 long term care homes in communities across Ontario that provide care, accommodation and services to nearly 50,000 residents.
- OLTCA's membership represents approximately 70% of the total long term care homes and 65% of the long term care residents in the province, including almost 42% of the not-for-profit and charitable beds.
- OLTCA's members are experts in providing specialized care to meet the needs of some of Ontario's oldest and frailest citizens. According to the May 2009 Ontario Health Quality Council report, homes have made great progress in developing and implementing a wide range of innovative and preventative measures to help reduce issues such as falls and pressure ulcers. For example, the Council noted that Kensington Garden in Toronto cut the total number of falls by 42% from 2005 to 2007; and Wellesley Central Place in Toronto had completely eliminated new pressure ulcers among residents.
- The same Ontario Health Quality Council report also showed that homes provide care to the satisfaction of 90% of residents and 85% of family members.
- As an advocate for the long term care sector, OLTCA successfully increased government funding for care levels from a daily average of 2.04 worked hours per resident in 2002 to 2.7 in 2008.

A Brief History

2009 is OLTCA's 50th anniversary. The association was founded in 1959 as the Associated Nursing Homes Incorporated of Ontario and later became the Ontario Nursing Home Association. In 2000, the organization changed its name to the Ontario Long Term Care Association to reflect the evolution of the Association to become a catalyst behind issues for members and their residents. With expertise in long term care and age-related issues developed over the past 50 years, OLTCA provides a solution-oriented approach to advance care and services to meet the changing needs of aging Ontarians.