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Updated: October 25, 2017

BACKGROUND

Ontarians feel it is urgent that the long-term health needs of seniors be addressed in the next provincial election

Recent survey commissioned by the Ontario Long Term Care Association speaks to climate of uncertainty in seniors' care.

The vast majority of Ontarians feel it is urgent or somewhat urgent that the long-term health needs of seniors be an issue addressed in the next provincial election.

When it comes to making decisions about long-term care, the two most important factors for Ontarians are the reputation of the home and access to onsite dementia support expertise.

More than four in five Ontarians believe it is unacceptable or somewhat unacceptable that older long-term care homes aren't designed to safely meet the needs of today's seniors living with Alzheimer's or dementia and that more than three seniors could share a room.

To view the full poll results, [click here](#).

Impressions on the government's approach to long-term care

- Over 90% of Ontarians surveyed feel that it is urgent or somewhat urgent that the long-term health needs of seniors be an issue addressed in the next provincial election.
- More than half of Ontarians surveyed are somewhat not confident or not confident that the Government of Ontario is investing what is needed to ensure long-term care homes are continually providing quality care.
- Nearly half of Ontarians surveyed say an acceptable wait time to get into the long-term care home they want to live in is less than three months.
- Almost two-thirds of Ontarians surveyed disagree or somewhat disagree that they are confident in long-term care homes being able to handle the care needs of Ontario's aging population.
- Nearly two in five Ontarians surveyed rate the job that the Government of Ontario is doing to ensure Ontarians have access to quality long-term care homes as average.

Shaping the future of long term care.

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Needing long-term care in the future

- More than half of Ontarians surveyed expect to be helping a parent, spouse, partner, family member or close friend move to a long-term care home in the next 10 years.

Access and amenities in long-term care homes

- More than 90% of Ontarians surveyed say that it is unacceptable or somewhat unacceptable that older long-term care homes aren't designed to safely meet the needs of today's seniors living with Alzheimer's or dementia.
- More than 90% of Ontarians surveyed say that it is unacceptable or somewhat unacceptable that more than three seniors could share a room.
- Nearly 70% of Ontarians surveyed say that it is unacceptable or somewhat unacceptable that some seniors in a long-term care home must share a bathroom with three other seniors they may not know or have a relationship with.
- More than 50% of Ontarians surveyed say that it is unacceptable or somewhat unacceptable that seniors don't have access to home-like amenities such as intimate dining rooms in older homes.

The following results are based on a question asking to rank the answer between 1 and 10, where 1 is least important and 10 is most important:

- Importance of access to on site dementia support expertise when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 8.8.
- Importance of the reputation of the home when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 8.8.
- Importance of a strong dietary program/robust menu options when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 8.6.
- Importance of a private room when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 8.2.
- Importance of a strong recreational program when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 8.2.
- Importance of proximity to home when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 7.4.
- Importance of a new home (built within the last 15 years) when it comes to long-term care decisions receives a mean score of 6.3.

Survey methodology

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) random telephone survey of 807 Ontarians, 18 years of age or older, plus an oversample of 400 seniors, 60 years of age and older, between August 28 and September 9, 2017 as part of an omnibus survey. Participants were randomly recruited by telephone using live agents and administered a survey. The margin of error for a random survey of 807 Ontarians is ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. This study was commissioned by the Ontario Long Term Care Association.

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