

## Media Release



### For Immediate Release

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#### **HQO highlights important role of long term care in reducing wait times** *Reaffirms need for long term care sector to be a key health system partner*

**Markham...** The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) applauds the 2011 Health Quality Ontario (HQO) annual report and its timely comments on long term care wait times.

“Today’s document reaffirms the need for the long term care sector to be a key health system partner in addressing long term care wait times and alternative levels of care challenges,” said Christina Bisanz, CEO of the OLTCA.

For example, a recent survey by the sector found that, despite the demand for long term care spaces across Ontario, some 67 homes report having hundreds of empty beds.

“We look forward to working with all health system partners, such as the Community Care Access Centres, to identify bottlenecks in the placement process, and ensure people in need can quickly find appropriate care,” said Bisanz.

“The government also plans to redevelop 35,000 older long term care beds. This will respond to residents’ preference for placement in newer long term homes,” said Bisanz. “The sector is committed to working with government to find solutions that will accelerate the redevelopment of these beds.

“OLTCA will also continue to work with HQO to advance quality in long term care,” adds Bisanz. Ontario’s long term care sector has become the leader in quality improvement initiatives, through *Resident’s First*, one of the most comprehensive and innovative health quality improvement initiatives in Canada.

The HQO report can be download [here](#).

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### **Background**

The OLTCA is Ontario’s largest long term care association, representing 428 homes from the not-for-profit, charitable, hospital, municipal and private sectors. Together they provide personal care to more than 50,000 Ontario residents and employ almost 50,000 people.