



Annie is 88 years old.

She lives in rural Ontario, in the same farmhouse her father was born in, on the farmland her grandparents cleared. Two of her four children and six grandchildren live nearby. But it's time for Annie to leave her home, to move to a long term care home so that her complex health needs can be better taken care of.

For Annie, and many frail seniors like her living in rural Ontario, moving to a long term care home presents challenges that those living in urban areas may not face.

Along with the stress that comes with moving, Annie faces additional problems. Because her town does not have a modern long term care home, Annie is forced to move away from the community she's called home for 88 years – away from family and friends.

Modern homes in rural Ontario are needed!

The Ontario Long Term Care Association believes Annie, and rural residents like her, should have the choice to stay in their communities – in modern, long term care homes where their social and medical needs can be met. They should be allowed to live close to family, friends and their community. If Annie can't stay in her home, she should at least be able to live in a modern, long term care home in her community.

We are asking government to redevelop rural homes now, so there will be care for those who need it now and in the future.

Support rural communities!

In many rural communities, long term care homes contribute significantly to the area's economic and social sustainability. They are often the area's largest employer and provide economic stability.

Rural long term care homes support the local economy – they hire local people, buy from local stores and use local trades and professionals. Those people, in turn, live locally and spend their paychecks locally. Rural homes are engaged in their communities, from being members of their Chamber of Commerce to volunteering with

service groups. Rural homes are often locally owned by families that have operated them for years.

However, rural homes face difficulties that other homes may not, especially the need to redevelop older homes. Because of isolation, the cost to operate a rural home can be higher. Recruiting skilled staff in a rural setting can also be a significant challenge. Accessing services for residents such as physiotherapy, medical laboratory and 24-hour nursing, can be more difficult because of the rural setting.

Stable funding is needed!

We are asking government to help ensure the sustainability of rural long term care homes by ensuring stable funding and by making sure the rural home Annie moves to is well maintained and cared for.

Rural long term care homes in Ontario:

- 144 rural homes
- 100 need to be redeveloped
- Care for more than 10,480 people
- Employ over 10,480 people
- Spend a total of about \$650 million in their communities
- Expect demand to nearly triple by 2035