

July 15, 2020

STATEMENT

Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), released the following statement related to the Ontario Government announcement on long-term care infrastructure and capacity building:

"Today's announcement by the Ontario Government is an important commitment to the province's long-term care homes and the vulnerable seniors they serve. We welcome the opportunity to work with government to renew and expand long-term care across Ontario.

The capital investment by Premier Ford, Minister Fullerton and the entire Cabinet illustrates their understanding of the need to provide Ontario's seniors with the care that they need and deserve. This is an important step forward to secure the sector's sustainability now and into the future, as 36,000 seniors in need remain on the waitlist and Ontario's population over 80 is set to double in the next 13 years. It takes a solid partnership with government to increase accessibility and improve quality of care in Ontario's long-term care homes; the success of capital programs is rooted in collaboration between the sector, all levels of government, and other health system partners.

OLTCA has been advocating for improvements to the provincial capital program for more than 15 years. We are pleased that the Ontario Government's new approach is more sensitive to the different needs of Ontario's rural and urban communities, and the local solutions they require. The government's increased level of capital funding will help a number of operators who were not able to previously secure financing to rebuild their homes. We are committed to working with the government to expedite the capital projects that are made feasible through this modernized program, and to continue to work together to remove any other barriers so that the majority of long-term care homes can rebuild and Ontario residents – regardless of where they live -- will have access to quality long-term care. Expediting capital projects will also require a streamlined process for approvals, we look forward to working with the government to continuously improve the process so that seniors can access quality long-term care as quickly as possible.

The OLTCA continues its advocacy for tangible government action that addresses longstanding systemic issues such as staffing and to re-center long-term care policy on the seniors it serves. This includes addressing the human resources emergency, reducing red tape, rethinking the operating funding model, and continuing to work together to improve the capital program.