

July 29, 2020

STATEMENT

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) released the following statement related to the Ontario Government's announcement of the launch of an independent commission into COVID-19 and long-term care.

"Today's announcement by the Ontario Government provides important details about the forthcoming review of the impact of COVID-19 in long-term care homes. We are encouraged that it will look at a broad range of longstanding and systemic challenges including staffing, infrastructure and labour relations. It is vitally important to ensure systemic issues are addressed to ensure that long-term care is sustainable and able to provide the high quality care that Ontario's seniors need and deserve.

The Ontario Long Term Care Association, representing 70% of Ontario's 630 long-term care homes across private, not-for-profit, charitable and municipal ownership structures, called on Premier Ford and Minister Fullerton to commit to a dedicated review to understand how root causes contributed to the tragedy that unfolded in Ontario and to spur long-awaited change. We were also clear that must happen in conjunction with urgent actions to protect against a potential second wave.

While the review is important, we must also prepare for a potential second wave now. We are calling on labour and health system partners to join us in urging the Ontario Government to implement our Wave 2 Action Plan for Long-Term Care to bring much-needed supports to the frontlines to protect residents and the hardworking staff who care for them. This includes continuing to prioritize PPE and testing in long-term care, adding new Infection Prevention and Control specialists, and enhancing medical and clinical support among other critical measures."

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