

May 26, 2020

STATEMENT

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) released the following statement related to the Canadian Armed Forces Report:

“Our thoughts are with affected residents, and their families, as they learn more about these circumstances today. Our first priority remains the health and safety of all long-term care residents as the pandemic continues to unfold. We are thankful to the Canadian Armed Forces, to our dedicated staff and to communities across the province, who continue to answer our calls and to rally around our most vulnerable seniors however they can during these difficult times.

Ontario’s long-term care homes have been clear about the dire situation on the frontlines of this unprecedented fight against COVID-19. The virus has exacerbated systemic issues, like the longstanding staffing challenges, as it impacts homes in varying degrees. As the virus spreads through communities and we learn more about its behaviours, a new set of issues have been brought forward that require immediate action to stabilize homes in outbreak, and to keep it out of other long-term care homes in a potential second wave.

While the sector review must be focused on the long-term sustainability of long-term care, the Association reiterates its calls on the Ontario Government to immediately implement urgently needed short-term interim solutions by supplying more personal protective equipment and rapid testing, making essential investments for older homes to enable more effective infection control required by the spread of COVID-19, continuing human resources flexibility and increasing support from homes’ medical directors, hospitals, other health service providers and other primary care resources, as well as urgently expediting capital redevelopment funding.

True partnership between long-term care, the rest of the healthcare system, and with our labour partners will mean the improvement to seniors’ care we need now and into the future in order to combat this unprecedented health care emergency and to serve our seniors.”

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