

November 5, 2020

## **STATEMENT**

**Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), released the following statement related to Ontario Budget 2020:**

“The Ontario Long Term Care Association, representing 70% of the province’s long-term care homes, welcomes Ontario Budget 2020 and its commitments to protect the health and safety of long-term care residents and the staff who care for them.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated longstanding issues in long-term care, and we owe it to our most vulnerable seniors to do everything we can to protect them now, while using this opportunity to transform the system and recenter it on the needs of residents, and the increasing complexity of their care.

The Government of Ontario is illustrating its leadership by committing to increase direct care to an average of 4 hours for long-term care residents, and we look forward to working with them to create a workforce with thousands more skilled healthcare workers to serve our seniors. We continue to inform the staffing strategy, as we know it will take all of us, across the health system and in cooperation with labour, to get this done and end the current staffing crisis.

Right now, long-term care homes need support on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. Investments in testing capacity, wage enhancements, among other critical measures, support retention and recruitment efforts while keeping our seniors healthy and safe.

Ontario Budget 2020 includes important steps to secure the sustainability of Ontario’s long-term care homes so we can build more beds to serve the 38,000 deserving Ontarians currently on the waitlist, and improve current ones so they are more resilient to future public health crises.”

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**Contact:** [media@oltca.com](mailto:media@oltca.com)