

October 23, 2020

STATEMENT

Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), released the following statement related to Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission interim recommendations:

"We would like to thank the Commissioners for their work and their interim recommendations. We urge on Premier Ford, Minister Fullerton and Minister Elliott to act on these recommendations immediately to ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff through this second wave of COVID-19.

In May, the Ontario Long Term Care Association, representing 70% of long-term care homes in the province caring for 70,000 residents annually, [called for a review of the COVID-19 response in long-term care](#) but only if it was paired with immediate action to safeguard against another tragedy. We welcome the opportunity to support the work of the Commission to highlight the root causes, and to work with government and health system partners to ensure that Ontario system stabilization efforts can be implemented quickly and effectively.

The Commissioners are right: long-term care staffing is in crisis and was in crisis well before the pandemic. Ensuring that the fundamentals such as timely access to personal protective equipment, rapid testing, hospital partnerships and dedicated infection prevention and control expertise are available in our homes is fundamental to protecting our residents, staff and family. It is also key to our ability to recruit and retain the new work force we desperately need.

We look forward to continuing to support the work of Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission to bring about long-awaited change in long-term care, the seniors who dedicated their lives to our province deserve it."

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