

**Ministry of  
Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère des  
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April 1, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensee:

Re: *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure our long-term care residents and dedicated staff receive the best care possible during this unprecedented time.

Our government is working in partnership with the long-term care sector as well as other health care sectors to ensure the continued safety and well-being of residents, families and staff. We have taken proactive measures and we continue to look at all possible courses of action to limit the spread of COVID-19.

*Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19* outlines the first steps in the province's plan to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak. The action plan will provide additional resources for the health care system and direct support for people and jobs.

As part of this investment, we are investing \$243 million in 2020-21 for additional surge capacity in homes, 24/7 screening, and more staff, supplies and equipment to help tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.

This includes:

- \$25 million in **initial emergency funding** for long-term care homes to help prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 by supporting operational costs related to screening, staffing, supplies and equipment. This funding was included in the March 17, 2020 announcement and will flow in April 2020.
- \$88 million in **additional prevention and containment** funding to support additional costs associated with screening, staffing, and supplies. We will work closely with the long-term care sector to determine how these additional funds are allocated.
- A new investment of nearly \$130 million to create **additional emergency capacity** in long-term care homes, to support adequate space to isolate residents as needed and to open appropriate care spaces for hospital patients who are waiting for long-term care.

The Spring Economic Statement confirmed the Government of Ontario will increase funding to the sector by \$102 million to maintain quality of care. This increase includes an investment of up to \$61.25 million, representing a 1.5% increase in the level of care per diem provided to all homes, effective April 1, 2020. The Case Mix Index notices that inform your nursing and personal care funding are underway and targeted to be released by early April 2020, with an effective date of August 1, 2020.

This investment also includes up to \$23 million for a new Minor Capital Program to help maintain long-term care homes, delivering on a commitment made in Fall 2019 to the sector to address gaps in the system for minor capital repairs. Funding through the Minor Capital Program will be introduced on April 1, 2020 and will be phased-in over multiple years so long-term care homes have time to plan and adjust future minor capital priorities. In 2020-21, the new program will provide an equivalent allocation to those long-term care homes who received funding under the previous Structural Compliance Premium.

I am pleased to also confirm that the Ontario government will continue to fund in 2020-21 the three pilot Behavioural Support Units sites initiated in 2019-20.

Additional detail regarding these investments, including the terms and conditions of funding increases and program investments, will be communicated shortly from Ministry staff.

With our government's investments and your efforts and dedication, together we can ensure the continued safety and well-being of residents and staff in our homes during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Merrilee Fullerton  
Minister of Long-Term Care

c:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division  
Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division  
Mr. William Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health  
Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association  
Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario