



Kawartha Lakes Health Coalition, Northumberland Health Coalition, Peterborough Health Coalition

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conditions in Long-Term Care facilities are no different in the Northumberland, Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough from the rest of the province, three local health coalitions learned in a survey conducted this spring.

“Chronic underfunding and privatization of health care have had an increasingly negative impact, particularly in Long-Term Care, as has been made painfully obvious during COVID. Decades of underfunding, understaffing, poor working conditions, high levels of violence and a focus on profits over quality care have eroded Canada’s system of Long-Term Care to the breaking point, leaving us tragically unprepared to protect the lives of our most vulnerable,” said Linda Mackenzie-Nicholas from the Northumberland Health Coalition.

“We are making every effort to bring and hold the public’s attention to an extremely important issue that has been exacerbated by a pandemic that has changed everything. This issue has been around for a long time and much has been promised but not delivered – time is against us,” added Peterborough Health Coalition spokesperson Roy Brady.

And Kawartha Lakes Health Coalition co-chair Bonnie Kennedy added, “Those in power have ignored strong criticisms of the living and labour conditions in Canada’s LTC system for decades. But the research is unambiguous: for-profit facilities offer comparatively substandard care. In fact, the CMA recommended a transition away from private facilities as far back as 1984. It should come as no surprise that LTC homes were woefully unprepared to survive the impact of the virus.”

Collectively, the three area coalitions are calling on the Ontario government to implement the following measures:

- End for-profit Long-Term Care homes,
- Follow through on your promise to hire additional qualified staff without fast-tracking undertrained students or reducing qualifications,
- Ensure all LTC residents receive at least the minimum four hours of direct hands-on care per day your government promised,
- Set a minimum pay standard, consistent with the hospital sector, for frontline LTC staff that includes not only personal support workers and other medical professionals, but also cleaning, food service and administrative staff,
- Ensure a minimum of 70 per cent of staff at each LTC home are full-time.

The survey results can be found here

<https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/report-survey-ta...health-coalition/>

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