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From: Prime Minister | Premier Ministre [mailto:PM@pm.gc.ca]

Sent: November 19, 2021 12:04 PM

To: Sue White <swhite@tecumseh.ca>

Cc: Jean-Yves Duclos <Hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca>

Subject: Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du Premier ministre

Dear Ms. Moy:

On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of October 28, 2021, supporting a resolution passed by the Municipality of Leamington regarding long-term care.

Thank you for taking the time to write. Please be assured that your comments, offered on behalf of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh, have been carefully reviewed.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, for his information and consideration.

Once again, thank you for writing.

A. Noël

Executive Correspondence Officer/Agente de correspondance Executive Correspondence Services/
Services de la correspondance de la haute direction

From: SPB / DGPS (HC/SC) [<mailto:spb-dgps@hc-sc.gc.ca>]

Sent: November 30, 2021 10:43 AM

To: Sue White <swhite@tecumseh.ca>

Subject: Long-term care

Dear L. Moy,

Thank you for your correspondence of October 28, 2021, to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, which was forwarded to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health.

We appreciate you taking the time to write and notify us about the Town of Tecumseh's support of the Municipality of Leamington's resolution regarding long-term care.

We read with interest the resolution you shared. We appreciate hearing from you concerning federal health care funding and efforts to protect and support long-term care residents in Canada. Your suggestions will be carefully considered as next steps are determined on these critical issues.

As you know, COVID-19 has tragically exposed long-standing issues affecting long-term care facilities across the country. Although long-term care falls under provincial and territorial jurisdiction, in light of COVID-19, the federal government is working collaboratively with provinces and territories to protect vulnerable Canadians in long-term care.

In the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, the federal government announced the creation of a new Safe Long-Term Care Fund. This fund will give up to \$1 billion to the provinces and territories to protect people living and working in long-term care. Provinces and territories will be able to use this money in a number of different ways, including for assessing infection prevention and control readiness, improving ventilation, and hiring more staff or raising wages. We are now working to reach agreements with all provinces and territories. You can find the agreements that have been signed to date and learn more about how the funding will be used under the Safe Long-Term Care Fund online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/shared-health-priorities.html>.

In addition, Budget 2021 announced a further \$3 billion investment, starting in 2022-23, to support provinces and territories in their efforts to ensure standards for long-term care are applied and permanent changes are made. The federal government will work collaboratively with provinces and territories to flow this funding as part of our collective efforts to make sure that seniors and others in care settings live in safe and dignified conditions.

The federal government has also responded to COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in a number of other ways:

- The Safe Restart Agreement provided provincial and territorial governments with over \$19 billion to help them restart the economy, while making Canada more resilient to future surges in cases of COVID-19. This included \$740 million in funding to support our most vulnerable populations through infection prevention and control measures to protect those in long-term care and those receiving home care and palliative care. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/safe-restart-agreement.html>.
- Provided \$3 billion in emergency federal funding to provinces and territories to support increased wages of low-income essential workers, including personal support workers in long-term care facilities.
- Supported provinces and territories in fighting outbreaks in long-term care facilities by providing personal protective equipment, contact tracing, rapid testing and vaccines. The Government also deployed the Canadian Armed Forces and funded direct assistance through the Canadian Red Cross.
- Provided funding to Healthcare Excellence Canada for its LTC+ initiative, which spreads promising practices in preventing and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on long-term care and retirement homes. This initiative has expanded to support more than 1,500 facilities across Canada. For additional information, please visit the following website: <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/what-we-do-together/ltc-acting-on-pandemic-learning-together/>
- Developed guidance documents on the care of residents in long-term care facilities, and infection prevention and control for long-term care, assisted-living facilities, and home care. For more information about these documents, you may wish to visit the following links:
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevent-control-covid-19-long-term-care-homes.html>
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/infection-prevention-control-covid-19-interim-guidance-home-care-settings.html>
- Committed \$38.5 million over two years to support training up to 4,000 personal support worker interns through an accelerated 6-week online training program combined with a 4-month work placement, to address acute labour shortages in long-term care and home care.

COVID-19 has also exposed a number of long-standing issues and challenges in the way we care for seniors in Canada, beyond long-term care facilities. With an aging population, increasing rates of chronic disease and cost pressures tied to new drugs and technologies, our health system must adapt if it is to deliver better care and better outcomes at an affordable cost.

That is why the federal government is providing \$6 billion over ten years – starting in 2017 – for provinces and territories to improve access to home and community care services, including palliative care. Although funding is not specific to facility-based long-term care, this investment is expected to help more Canadians receive the care and services they need so that they may remain at home longer. Details of the bilateral agreements, including how the funding is being spent, can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/shared-health-priorities.html>.

Seniors deserve to be safe, respected and live in dignity. The federal government continues to work in collaboration with provinces and territories to take action to support seniors, and increase resilience of long-term care facilities in order to prevent and mitigate challenges, such as COVID-19.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to us. If you have questions about the information provided in this reply, please contact Sharon Harper, Director General of the Health Care Programs and Policy Directorate, Strategic Policy Branch, at spb-dgps@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Strategic Policy Branch
Health Canada



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

October 28, 2021

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Email: Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Sirs:

Re: COVID-19 and Long Term Care Homes

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, gave consideration to a letter received from the Municipality of Leamington, dated October 8, 2021, regarding a motion passed by Leamington Council on Long Term Care and funding.

At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution:

... **That** the Town of Tecumseh support the Council of the Municipality of Leamington's motion September 14, 2021 resolution requesting the Provincial Government to move forward with implementation of the recommendations from AMO contained in its submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission and advocating the Federal Government to enhance federal health care funding to the Provinces and Territories specifically dedicating funding to long-term care and to undertake further efforts to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of long-term care residents.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's support of the Municipality of Leamington's resolution of September 14, 2021. A copy of the October 8, 2021 letter providing the resolution from the Municipality of Leamington is attached for your ease of reference.

Yours very truly,



Laura Moy, Dipl.M.M.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

LM/sw

Attachments

1. Letter from the Municipality of Leamington dated October 8, 2021
- cc: Mr. Tony Haddad, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Amherstburg, Email: thaddad@amherstburg.ca
- Mr. Robert W. Auger, L.L.B., Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk, Town of Essex, Email rauger@essex.ca
- Ms. Paula Parker, Clerk, Town of Kingsville, Email: pparker@kingsville.ca
- Ms. Kristen Newman, Corporate Leader, Strategic and Legal Affairs, Municipality of Lakeshore, Email: knewman@lakeshore.ca
- Ms. Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Council Services/Clerk, Town of LaSalle, Email: jastrologo@lasalle.ca
- Ms. Brenda Percy, Municipal Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Municipality of Leamington, Email: bpercy@leamington.ca
- Ms. Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk, County of Essex, (mbirch@countyofessex.ca)
- Ms. Janice Hensel, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Township of Pelee (Janice.hensel@pelee.ca)
- The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health - Canada, jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca
- The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health – Ontario, christine.elliott@ontario.ca
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities, resolutions@fcm.ca
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (policy@amo.on.ca)
- Mr. Chris Lewis, MP – Essex (chris.lewis@parl.gc.ca)
- Mr. Dave Epp, MP Chatham-Kent-Leamington (dave.epp@parl.gc.ca)
- Mr. Irek Kusmierczyk, MP – Windsor-Tecumseh (irek.kusmierczyk@parl.gc.ca)
- Mr. Brian Masse, MP – Windsor West (brian.masse@parl.gc.ca)
- Mr. Taras Natyshak, MPP – Essex (tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca)
- Mr. Rick Nicholls, MPP – Chatham-Kent-Essex (rick.nicholls@pc.ola.org)
- Mr. Percy Hatfield, MPP – Windsor-Tecumseh (phatfield-qp@ndp.on.ca)
- Ms. Lisa Gretzky, MPP – Windsor West (lgretzky-qp@ndp.on.ca)

October 8, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington, at its meeting held Tuesday, September 14, 2021 enacted the following resolution:

No. C-279-21

WHEREAS residents and staff at long-term care (LTC) homes have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in the first wave of the pandemic (March - July 2020) there were approximately 5,488 resident cases and 2,290 staff cases in Ontario and tragically 1,817 residents and seven staff lost their lives to this disease; and

WHEREAS on 15 April 2020, Premier Ford stated, “we will stop at nothing to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Today we are launching an all-out plan to fight COVID-19 in our long-term care homes. We will fortify the iron ring of protection around our long-term care residents and those who care for them. We’ll go further in our testing, screening, surveillance, targeting the homes facing outbreaks”; and

WHEREAS there have been approximately 9,417 resident cases and 4,217 staff cases in Ontario in the second wave (2 September 2020-16 February 2021) and 1,869 residents and three staff lost their lives, representing an increase of resident deaths from the first to second wave; and

WHEREAS for-profit LTC homes have seen a disproportionate incidence of care failing to meet the standard of the Long-Term Care Act, which states that “...a long-term care home is primarily the home of its residents and is to be operated so that it is a place where they may live with dignity and in security, safety and comfort and have their physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural needs adequately met”; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) report dated 20 May 2020 revealed conditions including inadequate staffing levels and training, limited medical supplies, unsafe medication administration, insufficient procedures to reduce the spread of

COVID-19, poor infection prevention and control standards of practice, deficiencies in infrastructure and significant concerns about standards of care including seniors calling out for help, rotting food, missed meals, seniors left in soiled diapers and linens and cockroach and bug infestations; and

WHEREAS similar conditions were found in the second wave, including ongoing shortages of qualified, trained staff, ineffective use of PPE to prevent COVID-19 transmission, violation of protocols and practices including one instance in which residents who had tested positive for COVID-19 had their door handles removed, physical distancing and isolation challenges from continuing to house several residents in ward rooms with a shared bathroom and ongoing infection prevention and control standard concerns, all problems that were not fixed after the recommendations of the CAF;

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has launched an independent commission to investigate COVID-19 spread within LTC homes, how residents, staff and families were impacted and the adequacy of measures taken by the province and other parties to prevent, isolate and contain the spread; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has provided a Board-approved submission, Improving the Long-Term Care Outbreak Response in Ontario: Submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission, on 29 January 2021, outlining recommendations to the Commission on behalf of the municipal governments that operate 100 of the 626 long-term care homes in Ontario; and

WHEREAS AMO's submission puts forward 48 recommendations for action in both public and private long-term care homes across nine themes: Vision for Long-Term Care and Leadership Culture, Public Health and Safety, Planning and Communications, Staffing Measures, Care for Residents, Funding, Inspections - Enforcement and Compliance, and Mental Health and Well-Being; and

WHEREAS one of the key recommendations of the AMO submission is that the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ministry of Health review the adequacy of infection prevention and control programs under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 in preventing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks, and to institute higher standards with increased funding to homes to implement these standards; and

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act's aim is to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada, and that the Federal Government provides health care funding to Provinces and Territories through the Canada Health Transfer; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government does not currently provide funding earmarked to support the LTC home sector, and;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) works with and advocates to the Federal Government to secure new tools and empower municipalities to build stronger communities; and

WHEREAS the operation of LTC homes is a municipal responsibility in Ontario but is of significance to the federal-municipal relationship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Leamington Municipal Council endorses AMO's recommendations contained in its submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council strongly urges the Provincial Government to move forward with implementation of these recommendations, including instituting higher standards with increased funding to homes to implement those standards;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council advocate to the Federal Government to enhance federal health care funding to the Provinces and Territories, specifically dedicating funding to long- term care, and to undertake further efforts to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of long-term care residents in Canada;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council request the FCM to develop a policy and advocacy position on enhanced federal support for long-term care;

THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Health, and FCM for their immediate action and that a copy be sent to AMO, and Windsor-Essex Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament for their information;

AND that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario upper-tier and single-tier municipalities for their endorsement.

Carried

Dated today, the 8th day of October, 2021.

Signature on File

Brenda Percy, Clerk
The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington