



# OANHSS

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF NON-PROFIT HOMES AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS**

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November 9, 2011

The Toronto Star  
One Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Letter to the Editor:

**Re: A dementia patient with no home (Nov 6)  
Time to address nursing home nightmare (Letter to the Editor - Nov 7)**

Seniors who require long term care are older, frailer and more chronically ill than ever before. With the continuing challenge of alternate level of care (ALC), homes are taking on the heaviest care patients that are coming out of hospitals.

Unfortunately, the situation facing Zvonko Golub and many others reflects the reality that under the current funding system, homes do not have the capacity to respond to and alleviate the pressures that hospitals are facing with ALC patients.

Long term care homes are ready and willing to work with the government on strategies to enable homes to admit more residents with complex care needs, but OANHSS has been signalling for some time that the sector cannot perform this role without additional staffing and resources.

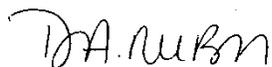
The government has acknowledged the need and over the last few years has committed to funding for additional personal support workers and nurses, staff that are desperately needed to provide more frontline care.

We cannot, however, continue to simply invest more dollars in the existing provincial patchwork of seniors' care and service delivery models. OANHSS believes it is imperative that the government undertake a comprehensive capacity planning exercise to ensure that Ontario's seniors have access to the most cost-effective care and services they require, when and where they require them. This must address the full continuum of care including long term care, homecare, seniors' supportive housing and community support services.

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Within this challenging environment, the vast majority of long term care homes are delivering quality and compassionate care. While there is always room for improvement, it is unfair and irresponsible for Ellen Watson to paint the entire sector with the same negative brush.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DA. RUBIN". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donna A. Rubin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors