



OANHSS

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF NON-PROFIT HOMES AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS

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The Ottawa Citizen
1101 Baxter Road, Box 5020
Ottawa, ON
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Letter to the Editor:

Re: Frightening view of senior care: Lodge doesn't have the staff needed for proper supervision (October 9)

Increasing the level of care for residents in long term care homes has been the top priority for our Association for many years. It was also the cornerstone of the government-commissioned Sharkey Report, which recommended in 2008 an average of four hours of paid care per resident per day. Currently, the sector is close to three hours.

The government acknowledged the need and committed in 2008 to add 2,500 personal support workers (PSWs) over three years and 2,000 nurses over four years. In the recent provincial budget, they fulfilled the PSW promise with funding for the final 1,100 positions.

While there is much more that can, and should be done, we must recognize that even incremental increases such as these require a huge investment when applied to over 620 homes across the province that care for over 77,000 residents.

By way of example, funding to add 2,500 PSWs alone was over \$100 million. It is in this context that we realize that constant, one-to-one care is simply not something that our current long term care home system is funded or structured to support.

Notwithstanding the fiscal pressures, we cannot lose sight of the current and growing need for additional front line care, especially as long term care homes are expected to admit residents with increasingly complex needs.

Sincerely,

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