

Long Term Care Beds in Ontario

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Whereas, the average wait time in Ontario for a long-term care (LTC) bed in 2017/18 was over 150 days for placement from the community, and over 100 days for placement from hospital; and

Whereas, the Ontario Long Term Care Association stated that the wait list was 35,000 for LTC beds; and

Whereas, the Government of Ontario has promised an additional 30,000 LTC beds over the next ten years (2030); therefore, be it

Resolved, Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in 72nd annual convention assembled, urge the Government of Ontario to advance the addition of 30,000 LTC beds from year 2030 to 2025.

Gifted by Ottawa Diocesan Council

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Brief:

The Ontario Long Term Care Association reported in April 2019 the wait list was 35,000 for long term care (LTC) beds (Ontario Long Term Care Association).¹ At that time, the senior population (65 & over) of Ontario was 16.9% of the entire population in the province (Statistics Canada).

“Delayed admission to a long-term care home can result in health complications for people waiting, as well as create stress for them, family members and other caregivers. If people are waiting in hospital when they could be in a long-term care home, it may affect the hospital’s ability to provide services to other patients who require hospital care” (Health Quality Ontario).

In 2014/15 the median wait time for admission from a hospital was approximately 60 days, and from the community approximately 130 days. It has increased steadily so that in 2017/18 the median wait time from a hospital was approximately over 100 days (a 65% increase) and from the community approximately over 150 days, (a 15% increase) in a three-year period (Health Quality Ontario).⁴

In February 2019 the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Christine Elliott, stated Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to establish a comprehensive and connected system for mental health and addictions treatment and adding 15,000 new long-term care beds over five years and 30,000 beds over ten years” (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care).⁵

Long-term care beds are needed much earlier than 2030. A completion date of 2025 would improve the crisis in Ontario and reduce the amount of stress for all concerned.

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Works Cited

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Action Plan

1. Write to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Health, and your provincial MPP urging the Provincial Government to change their decision to have 30,000 new long term care beds in place by the year 2030 in Ontario, to a more realistic date of 2025.
2. Educate members on the current shortage of long term care beds in Ontario and the pressing need for as many beds as soon as possible in the province so we can alleviate the crisis situation in the hospitals where beds are being taken up by patients waiting for long term care placement.
3. Monitor the provincial government's response to the request contained in the resolution.