



Hon. Merilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care
6th Flr, 400 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 1S5
VIA Email

April 28, 2020

Minister Fullerton,

I write to you today, on behalf of my constituents in the riding of Davenport, to call for more urgent and aggressive action to protect our loved ones in Ontario's long-term care system.

Our province has been shaken by the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, and by the apparent lack of preparedness and protection for some of our most vulnerable during this pandemic. Here in Davenport, people have been reaching out to share their concerns with me.

- A resident whose 95 year old father contracted COVID-19 at the Mon Sheong Home for the Aged, a home that tried and failed to get needed Personal Protective Equipment from authorities before the outbreak, and only received it after making the issue public.
- Another resident, who appealed to my office for help because he could not even reach the administrators at his mother's LTC home to get an update. In addition to his real concerns about the lack of testing and the overall gaps in oversight in LTC, he is incredibly concerned about the health impacts that will come from her extended isolation.
- A personal support worker who was forced to leave her job at a home after being told they were *not allowed* to have PPE. These staff were subsequently allowed to wear one mask per 8 hour shift, and a nurse at the site has since tested positive.
- A resident who reached out with concerns about a lack of homecare support for her parents as staffing rules changed and agencies were left understaffed.
- Local LTC homes who have been forced to seek donations of PPE from the public to keep their staff and residents protected.
- People who are terrified that their loved ones will be left to fight this pandemic on their own as outbreaks rage on.

These are just a few of the examples of concerns that my constituents are raising, and I know that my office is not alone.

That's why it's more urgent than ever that your government act on the proposals that the Official Opposition has put forward, and develop an urgent action plan that includes:

- Criteria for handing direct management of facilities over to public health
- Mandated minimum staffing requirement in each home, on each shift
- Mandated infection control and isolation requirements
- A plan to provide personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 masks, to all homes, and require staff wear PPE at all times
- Mandate what homes must communicate to residents and their families

Staff in Ontario's long-term care homes are going above and beyond to care for our loved ones, but the staggering loss of life shows that the government's plans are not working.

On behalf of my constituents, I implore you to do more to protect the lives of these vulnerable Ontarians, and work with us to fundamentally change the way long term care is delivered in this province.

Sincerely,



Marit Stiles, MPP
Davenport