

July 4, 2025

Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta
Minister of Long-Term Care
6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 1S5

Dear Minister Kusendova-Bashta,

Re: Proposal 25-HLTC011 - Publication Period for Long-Term Care Inspection Report

I am writing to you on behalf of the more than 68,000 registered nurses (RNs) and health-care professionals, and over 18,000 nursing student affiliates, represented by the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA). Our membership includes thousands of nurses and health-care professionals who provide care in long-term care (LTC) facilities, and together we are advocates for improvements in this sector.

The proposal to amend the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA)* to establish a three-year publication period for inspection-related reports is deeply concerning to us. Inspection reports often document instances of neglect and abuse experienced by residents in for-profit LTC homes. In some cases, these reports demonstrate a pattern of sub-standard care where profits are prioritized over resident care. The proposal to limit the publication period to three years would remove reports from the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when 3,211 LTC residents in Ontario died of COVID-19 in the first year of the pandemic alone.¹ Statistics show that Ontario's for-profit homes had far more COVID-19 deaths on a per-bed basis than non-profit and municipal homes, regardless of the age of the home or local infection rate.² Ultimately, this proposed regulation exonerates the worst for-profit homes of their horrific record by sweeping their documented history of neglect under the rug.

Inspection reports are currently posted on the LTC homes public [website](#). The site is easy to navigate and allows users to search for homes by postal code, location or home name. After selecting a home, inspection reports are listed in reverse chronological order, with the most recent reports at the top of the page. Individuals reference these reports when choosing a home for themselves or for their loved ones. By removing reports from the site, residents and their families will

¹ Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. "COVID-19 and Ontario's Long-Term Care Homes." January 20, 2021. pandemics.utoronto.ca/resources/covid-19-and-ontarios-long-term-care-homes-2/

² Tubb, E., Wallace, K., and Kennedy, B. "For-profit nursing homes in Ontario say ownership has nothing to do with their higher COVID-19 death rates. A Star analysis finds that's not the case." *Toronto Star*. February 2021. thestar.com/business/for-profit-nursing-homes-in-ontario-say-ownership-has-nothing-to-do-with-their-higher

have to choose to move to an LTC home without all of the information available to them. It is unnecessary to remove older reports to make the site more navigable.

ONA has long advocated for thorough, proactive and regular inspections in LTC homes. We continue to highlight the recommendations from the final report of the independent SARS Commission, published nearly 20 years ago, with respect to empowering Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors to conduct proactive inspections in homes, and ensure that health-care workers are protected in a manner consistent with worker safety laws, regulations, guidelines and best practices.³ In the same light, it is essential that health-care workers and residents, as well as the public at large, have access to recent and past inspection reports documenting the working and living conditions of the home.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that residents in LTC are forgotten by decision makers. As for-profit homes reported devastating COVID-19 death totals, the provincial government buried its head in the sand. Now, the Ministry is attempting to shield bad actors by burying reports rather than investing in the staff desperately needed to care for residents. I urge you to reject this regulation, phase out for-profit LTC, and invest in safe staffing to improve resident care.

Sincerely,



Erin Ariss, RN

President, Ontario Nurses' Association

³ Campbell, A. "Spring of Fear". The SARS Commission. Executive Summary. December 2006. archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/sars/report