

May 5, 2021

The Honourable Deb Schulte
Minister of Seniors

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Common Standards & Long-Term Care under the Canada Health Act

Dear Minister Schulte and Minister Hajdu

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed long-standing negligence, inadequate care, and a lack of preparation in many Canadian long-term care (LTC) residences. These deficits resulted in high infection rates among LTC residents and staff and contributed to [thousands of preventable deaths](#). As Canada battles a [third-wave of infections](#), we need our governments – federal and provincial – to work together to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned over the current situation for seniors and staff in long-term care facilities in Canada. We are calling for the establishment of common evidence-based standards that ensure all vulnerable Canadians can live in safety, comfort, and dignity and have access to high-quality, affordable long-term care. We are also calling on all levels of government to work together and create universal, accessible, regulated, respectful, and quality long-term care for the immediate and growing needs of elderly and vulnerable persons in Canada by extending the joint federal/provincial/territorial jurisdiction already in place under the *Canada Health Act* to cover long-term care.

In the [2020 Speech from the Throne](#), the Government of Canada recognized that the COVID pandemic quickly evolved into a national tragedy in Canada's LTC homes. The Government acknowledged that “[e]lders deserve to be safe, respected, and live in dignity,” and committed to an ambitious agenda that supports national standards of care and taking action to help people stay in their homes longer. These life-saving actions, however, have yet to materialize. It is unacceptable that [nearly 70% of all COVID deaths](#) in Canada have been in LTC facilities, as of March 2021, the worst record among wealthy nations.

It is clear that national standards, increased funding directly tied to care, increased staffing, fair pay and improved working conditions, proper protective equipment, and the overall public provision of high-quality and safe long-term care, are the solutions. We implore you to act on implementing common standards of care, eliminating for-profit LTC homes, and follow through with the actions outlined in the Federal Government's Throne Speech & Budget 2021. Please protect the rights, health, and safety of elderly persons and the vulnerable in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Organizations:

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) National
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women /Institut canadien de recherches sur les femmes (CRIA-W-ICREF)
National Congress of Black Women Foundation
National Council of Women of Canada
Oxfam Canada
Unifor

Groups:

CFUW Abbotsford
CFUW Aurora Newmarket
CFUW Belleville & District
CFUW Calgary
CFUW Cowichan Valley
CFUW Coquitlam
CFUW Cornwall and District
CFUW Duncan
CFUW Grimsby
CFUW Guelph
CFUW Hamilton
CFUW Kanata
CFUW Kelowna
CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo
CFUW Leaside/East York
CFUW Milton & District
CFUW Mississauga
CFUW Nelson
CFUW Oakville
CFUW Ontario Council
CFUW Ottawa
CFUW Parksville/Qualicum
CFUW Perth
CFUW Peterborough
CFUW Saanich Peninsula
CFUW Salt Spring Island B.C.
CFUW Scarborough
CFUW Sherbrooke & District
CFUW St. John's
CFUW Stratford
CFUW Sunshine Coast
CFUW Thunder Bay
CFUW Vernon
CFUW Victoria
CFUW Welland and District
CFUW West Vancouver
University Women's Club North York

Individuals:

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Anita DesRosiers
Anita M Payne
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Becky Haggith
Beth Mlacak
Betty Hicks
Bev Weidman
Beverley Philips
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Deborah A. Welland
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Deborah Track
Debra Thompson
Diana Reece
Dolores Dufresne
Donna Campbell
Donna Elliott
Donna Miller
Donna Powell
Doreen Dickson
Doris Figueroa
Dorothy Duncan
Eleanor Scarth
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Elizabeth Ainslie
Ellen Heale
Ellen Hoffmann
Elsbeth Yada
Erika Gregson
Fran Harding
Fran Kirby
Frances Sheila Barrick
G.Prouten
Gail Doehler
Gale Rocky
Grace Hollett
Grace Stapleton
Gwenda Louie
Hèlene Crabb
Hazen Scott
Heather Debling
Heather Oxman
Heili Strawbridge
Helen Reid
Helena Raheja
Ilea Tant
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Isobel Boyle
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Jake Buffin
James Hyatt

Jan Jasienczyk
Jan Mackie
Jane Bermingham
Jane Clemo
Jane Griffiths
Janet McCarthy
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Janice Harvey
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Kathryn Wilkinson
Kathy Barnett
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Laura Fisher
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Leigh Miller
Lenora Fleming
Lil Selby
Lillian Lanca
Linda Hyatt
Linda Lehr
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Linda Williams
Liz McLardy
Lois Flakstad
Lorraine Roberts
Louanne Lax

Louise McColl
Louise Philp
Lydia Bell
Lynda OConnor
Lynn Becker
Lynn Havard
Maralynn Beach
Margaret Anne Sterling
Margaret Harrington
Margaret Lindley
Margaret Picard
Margaret Sandall
Margaret Therrien
Marian Lips
Marilyn Hansen
Marilyn Hill
Marilyn Slater
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Marjorie E. Snyder
Marjorie Elliott
Marlene Patrick
Mary Jane Randlett
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Mary McEwen
Mary Miller
Mary-Jane O'Halloran
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Melanie Wade
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Nancy Hallowell Scott
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Nancy Ryan
Nancy Sim
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Patricia Stackhouse
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Rayne Jacobsen
Rosalind HOLETON
Rose Sheehan

Ruth Currie
Sally McRoberts
Sandra Hyslop
Sandra Mallory
Sandy Macpherson
Shari Selves
Sharon A King
Sharon Klinck
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Sheila Service
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Sonya Emperingham
Stacey Pegg Wilson
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Susan Johnsen
Susan Narducci
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Sylvia Riddell
Tamara Lorincz
Terrill MacDonald
Theresa MacDonald
Valerie Gunn
Vicki Bedford
Vicki Mock
Wanda Roberts
Wendy Frew
Wendy Starratt-Kunder
Wendy Wilkinson