

The Honourable Doug Ford,
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Retirement Home Funding

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting passed the following resolution:

“Whereas there are 700 retirement homes in Ontario regulated by the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority in accordance with the Retirement Homes Act; this includes the Residential Tenancies Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Ontario Fire Protection Act, the Personal Health Information Protection Act and College of Nurses standards;

And Whereas Retirement Homes are privately owned, renting private accommodation to seniors without access to public funding by the government the same way home care services and long term care homes do;

And Whereas currently 60% of these Ontario Retirement Homes, that are small facilities under 70 beds, are failing financially and/or are facing imminent closure risking loss of supportive, safe and secure environments for 60,000 retirement home residents in Ontario, as per Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA);

And Whereas the cost of living in a retirement home is \$1500 - \$6000 a month which is significantly more expensive versus the cost of homecare services and/or long term care homes, as most assisted living/retirement homes do not provide personal care as a part of the basic fee; instead requiring residents to pay full cost of accommodation and any care services they require;

And Whereas home care services may be provided at no cost to resident “only if” appropriate level(s) of community service provider staffing is available;

And Whereas many Retirement Home residents or individuals in the community, who do not require long term care levels of service, are forced into long term beds due to extinguishing funds and/or lack of adequate financial means to pay for Retirement Home and/or required extra personal care services, inappropriately burdening limited long term care bed or acute hospital bed capacity;

And Whereas many seniors living in Retirement Homes and who experience worsening medical conditions, increased number of falls and overall increased frailty, often do “not” move onto long term care due to lack of long term bed availability and/or family preference, placing significant stress on Retirement Home staffing complements and financial resources;

And Whereas Retirement Homes have not been afforded recent government Nursing and/or PSW staff subsidies as provided to home care service providers and long term care homes;

And Whereas Retirement Homes have not been included in recent reduction of resident activity restrictions.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent request that the Ontario Government:

1. Enable individuals in the community opportunity to apply for financial assistance from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility to help cover accommodation costs and/or required personal care service costs at Retirement Home level, similar to available funding assistance for home care services and long term care homes.
2. Recognize Retirement Homes as an essential community health care partner and implement an equitable service funding program that facilitates/enables Retirement Homes to safely care for residents who require significant personal care assistance while awaiting a long term care bed.
3. Afford equitable Nursing and PSW staffing subsidies retroactively across all divisions of the community health care provision sector, including Retirement Homes.
4. Allow for equitable resident activity levels across all divisions of the community health care provision sector, including Retirement Homes.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and all Ontario municipalities.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Smith, CMO
Director Municipal Governance
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

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Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility
Ontario Municipalities