

Long Term Care Facilities Fact Sheet

Remember the Tory TV ads boasting of \$1.2 billion to create 20,000 new long-term beds?

Care needs are growing

Well, the grand promise to spend \$1.2 billion has a catch. Government spending is only to be finished by 2004! Meanwhile the number of elderly people in Ontario is growing. Hospital cuts and closures as well as the underfunding of home care are creating a huge demand for long-term care.

Care levels have been cut

The government plans to cut more than 3500 chronic care beds and move many chronic care patients to much cheaper long-term care facilities. Long-term care facilities cannot provide the medical services to replace chronic care hospitals. Chronic care beds are funded at a rate of \$200 per day or more. Long term care beds average about \$90 per day.

Care standards have been eliminated

The warehousing plans and discount care also affect current residents and the thousands waiting to get into facilities. That's because the province eliminated the minimum 2.25 hours of care per day for each resident. They also got rid of the requirement that facilities have a registered nurse on duty at all times.

Opening the door to health care user fees

There just aren't enough staff or hours of care available. Many families feel the need to hire private help to look after their loved ones. Residents who can't afford to pay don't receive the help they need.

LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

- **Tories have eliminated the minimum staffing standards for nursing home which ensured that residents get at least 2.25 hours of nursing care per day; meanwhile, government funding cuts and hospital closures mean that most residents now require 3.5 hours/day or more**
- **Tories have eliminated requirement for a Registered Nurse to be present in a nursing home at all times**
- **Chronic Care patients dumped into long-term care beds to get much less care**
- **\$1.2 billion boom for big business: 70% of the first 6700 beds were awarded to big,**

for-profit companies like Extendicare, Versa Care and Leisureworld

- **Patients forced to pay out of their own pockets to supplement missing care**

18,000+ people on waiting lists but Tory plans only to be completed by 2004

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