

Caring for our seniors and our communities



Long-term care (LTC) plays a crucial role in the socio-economic vitality of our communities. We need to work together to build LTC spaces for the growing number of older loved ones who need them.

The Ontario government and municipalities are critical partners to moving forward the renewal of 28,000 older LTC spaces and construction of 30,000 new LTC spaces, serving even more seniors.

Together, we need to take further action to:

- Promote and understand LTC as housing and a place to call home for our most vulnerable family members and friends.
- Address the overly stressed economics of redevelopment by enhancing capital funding contributions and increasing land availability for LTC projects.
- Reduce barriers to redevelopment through land use planning and design flexibility that enable innovative approaches, including campuses of care that address multiple community needs.

Through our collaborative efforts, we can build more LTC homes and generate further economic, social, and health benefits for communities across Ontario.

Who needs long-term care in Ontario?

The number of seniors over 80 in Ontario will more than double by 2040, and 1 in 5 seniors over 80 will have complex care needs that will require access to the 24/7 skilled, interdisciplinary care provided by Ontario's LTC homes.

Today, there are over 76,000 LTC spaces spread across 620 municipal, non-profit and private homes. However, demand is significantly outstripping supply with the current waitlist of over 45,000 people projected to grow to more than 48,000 by 2029.

This wait list is too big, and the wait is too long.

Of those entering LTC today:



88% need support with activities of daily living, like getting dressed and eating meals.



75% of residents have 3 or more different medical conditions.



76% have cognitive support needs.



Up to 40% have access to subsidized, geared to income housing.

Ensuring care is there for our seniors and communities

This government has made a historic investment of \$6.4 Billion to support the modernization and expansion of LTC homes. Significant progress has been made towards the Ontario government's goal to develop and redevelop 58,000 vital LTC spaces. To date, there are 111 projects representing 18,215 new and redeveloped spaces that have been completed, are under construction, or have ministry approval to construct.

Despite the historic investments and progress that has been made, more needs to be done to ensure seniors have access to long-term care in their communities.

To support the remaining 40,000 spaces to redevelop and build, collaboration and support is required to address the ongoing challenges facing LTC homes:

- The high cost of, or lack of available land;
- Continuing rapidly rising construction costs; and,
- High financing costs.

With a growing seniors' population and an increasing waitlist for long-term care, there is an urgent need for collaboration to create new opportunities for long-term care homes to find viable paths to build and renew.

The lack of action on these critical issues will put Ontario's communities at risk of not having enough spaces to care for their most vulnerable residents. In addition, these communities will lose the socio-economic value these homes create.



Socioeconomic Value of Long-Term Careⁱ

Beyond the invaluable care and services LTC homes offer to their residents, LTC homes generate significant social and economic benefits to their families, caregivers, communities and the overall health and social services systems.

Economic Benefits to Our Communitiesⁱⁱ



In 2024, LTC homes in Ontario will contribute and/or support:

- \$12.43B to GDP and \$8.86B in labour income; and
- 173,751 jobs (direct, indirect and induced)

Planned re/developments, once fully realized, will further contribute and/or support:

- \$33.33B to GDP and \$21.9B in labour income through construction activity;
- An additional \$4.54B in GDP, the creation of more than 59,000 new jobs and an additional \$3.17B in labour income related to the operation of 30,000 new spaces.

Social Benefits to the Families in Our Communities



The value that LTC provides to family members of residents cannot be overstated, including:ⁱⁱⁱ

- Reducing up to 822,600 hours of informal caregiving per week needed from families and friends for more than 30,000 seniors who will have access to care that better meets their complex needs if LTC expansion is achieved in Ontario;
- Adding income potential of up to \$23.86 million per week across 30,000 unpaid caregivers (\$795 per caregiver), if every caregiving hour is replaced by an employment hour; and
- Reducing uninsured financial costs related to out-of-pocket caregiving expenses (e.g., additional uninsured equipment and PSW and nursing support). The Ontario Caregiver Organization found that 58 per cent of unpaid caregivers had paid for caregiving-related expenses in 2023.

Quality Health Care and Social Benefits in Our Communities



Access to LTC helps preserve the capacity of hospitals and social services in our communities by:

- Providing residents with access to on-site health care services for needs that would otherwise result in a hospital visit;
- Unlocking hospital capacity by supporting people needing an alternate level of care (ALC). Moving 100 ALC patients to LTC generates savings of almost \$100,000 per day for hospitals; and
- Reducing pressure on social services available through community organizations and municipalities that would otherwise be used by people who need LTC.

Supporting Our Communities, Together

We need to work together to build the LTC spaces needed by our communities.

The Ontario government and municipalities have been critical partners in moving the projects currently underway. But more work remains to be done. Moving more projects involves all of us working together to:

- Promote and understand LTC as housing and a place to call home for our most vulnerable family members and friends.
- Address the overly stressed economics of LTC redevelopment by enhancing capital funding contributions and increasing land availability for LTC projects.
- Reduce barriers to redevelopment through land use planning and design flexibility that enable innovative approaches, including campuses of care that address multiple community needs.

We encourage local governments to reach out to their LTC home partners in the community to explore opportunities to support them redeveloping older homes and building new homes in collaboration with the provincial government. Working together, we can ensure our seniors have access to long-term care in their local communities.

About the OLTCA

For more than 60 years, the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) has been committed to advancing the quality of long-term care services in Ontario.

Today, the OLTCA has the privilege of representing 70% of the long-term care homes in Ontario. Like the system itself, the OLTCA includes a range of ownership models: private operators, non-profit and charitable organizations, municipally operated and First Nation homes.

The OLTCA represents the shared interests of homes across the province and believes in our collective responsibility to build a strong and sustainable long-term care home sector that delivers the best quality care to Ontario's seniors.

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ⁱ Data and analysis provided by StrategyCorp Institute.

ⁱⁱ IMPLAN® model, 2019 Data, using inputs provided by the user and IMPLAN Group LLC, IMPLAN System (data and software), 16905 Northcross Dr., Suite 120, Huntersville, NC 28078 <http://www.implan.com/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Calculations assume that every senior in the community in Ontario has one unpaid caregiver. For every 100 unpaid caregivers, 42.1 experience distress and provide 39 hours of care a week. The other 57.9 provide on average 19 hours of care. To calculate the employment income opportunity cost associated with unpaid caregiving, we use the median hourly wage rate in Ontario in 2023 (\$29).