



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Information, Heritage and Seniors Committee
From: Suzanne Dronick, Wellington Terrace LTCH Administrator
Date: Tuesday, November 08, 2022
Subject: Long-term Care Update

Background:

The government has announced that it will be making additional changes as part of the Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery. As well, a few changes have been made to the Wellington Terrace visiting policy. All changes are outlined below;

Support for LTC recruitment:

The provincial government's plan is to bring in more health care workers and to support recruitment efforts to make it faster and easier for health care professionals, including those from other provinces and internationally, to register and practice in Ontario.

Changes that will come into effect immediately include:

- Allowing internationally educated nurses to register in a temporary class and begin working sooner while they work towards full registration.
- Making it easier for non-practicing or retired nurses to return to the field by introducing flexibility to the requirement that they need to have practiced nursing within a certain period of time before applying for reinstatement.
- Creating a new temporary independent practice registration class for physicians from other provinces and territories, making it easier for them to work for up to 90 days in Ontario.

Further changes, which come into effect on January 1, 2023, include:

- Requiring health regulatory colleges to comply with time limits to make registration decisions.
- Prohibiting health regulatory colleges from requiring Canadian work experience for the purpose of registration, with some exceptions such as when equivalent international experience is accepted.
- Accepting language tests approved under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) to reduce duplicate language proficiency testing for immigrants to Canada.
- Finally, on August 31, 2023, health regulatory colleges will be required to have a new category of registration that can be used to facilitate quicker registration to help safeguard the health workforce supply in the event of future emergencies.

Support for placement:

On Friday, details of the new Local Priorities Fund (LPF) were released through Itchomes.net. The Ministry of Long-Term Care will provide Ontario Health with one-time funding of up to \$20,000,000 for the Fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The LPF will support Ontario Health, working in conjunction with Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) and LTC homes, to make tailored and targeted investments in specialized staffing, equipment and services to:

- Support placement of eligible high-needs designated alternate level of care (ALC) patients from hospitals into LTC;
- Avoid hospital admissions for current LTC residents who have new or increasingly complex medical or specialized equipment needs that cannot currently be accommodated in their LTC home; and
- Enable the admission of community members with specialized needs to LTC.

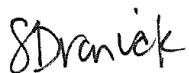
Visiting policy changes:

- Visiting hours have been extended and are as follows, 9:30am-7:30pm.
- Non-vaccinated visitors are allowed to visit with their loved one in a designated area. Masks will be required for the duration of the visit.

Recommendation:

That the Long-term Care Update report be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Dronick
Wellington Terrace LTCH Administrator