



March 7, 2008

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier and
Minister of Research and Innovation
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

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**RE: CORRESPONDENCE FROM REGIONAL COUNCILLOR
O'CONNOR, TOWNSHIP OF BROCK, DATED FEBRUARY 21,
2008 RE: RETIREMENT HOMES (Our File P10-00)**

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

605 ROSSLAND RD. E.
PO BOX 623
WHITBY ON L1N 6A3
CANADA
905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102
Fax: 905-668-9963

E-mail:
clerks@region.durham.on.ca

www.region.durham.on.ca

Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
Regional Clerk

Dear Premier, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on March 5, 2008 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"WHEREAS the health and well-being of residents of retirement homes need to be protected; and

WHEREAS from January to March 2007, the Ontario Senior's Secretariat led a public consultation on improving the standards of care in Ontario's retirement homes; and

WHEREAS the consultation suggested that the Ontario Government:

- Establish mandatory province-wide standards;
- Establish a new agency, independent from government, to enforce these standards;
- Build on the existing voluntary standards on the Ontario Retirement Communities Association over the past 13 years; and
- Provide education and training for all retirement home staff so they can understand and meet the standards, and

WHEREAS on September 7, 2007, the Minister Responsible for Seniors announced that the Ontario Government intends to establish consumer protection legislation by:

- Conducting a survey to determine the level of care and services being purchased by residents of Ontario's >700 retirement homes; and
- Consulting stakeholders on what should be included in a standard, plain-language contract between retirement homes and residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Government is urged to make the establishment of consumer protection legislation for residents of retirement homes a top government priority, and thus such legislation is introduced in the Ontario Legislature no later than in 2008; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such legislation requires retirement homes to register with their local boards of health and municipalities so that medical officers of health and municipal officials can ensure that their respective statutory duties (i.e., health protection, fire prevention, etc) can be carried out; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers Responsible for Seniors, Health and Long-Term Care, and Health Promotion, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Durham's MPPs and municipalities, alPHa, ORCA, AMO, OMSSA, ONPHA, OANHSS and all Ontario boards of health be so advised."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/daj

- c: The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister Responsible for Seniors
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ms. Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Victoria/Brock)
Mr. Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge)
Ms. Christine Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Ajax)
Mr. John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
Mr. Jerry Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
Mr. Joe Dickson, MPP (/Ajax/Pickering)
Mr. M. de Rond, Clerk, Town of Ajax
Mr. G.S. Graham, Clerk-Administrator, Township of Brock
Mrs. P.L. Barrie, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
Ms. D. A. Wilcox, Clerk, City of Pickering
Ms. K. Coates, Clerk, Township of Scugog
Ms. D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
Mr. P. Jones, Clerk, Town of Whitby
Ms. S. Kranc, Clerk, City of Oshawa
Ms. Linda Stewart, Executive Director, alPHa
Ms. Millie Christie, President, ORCA
Ms. Pat Vanini, Executive Director, AMO
Ms. Kira Heineck, Executive Director, OMSSA
Ms. Sharad Kerur, Executive Director, ONPHA
Ms. Donna A. Rubin, Chief Executive Officer, OANHSS
all Ontario boards of health
Dr. R. J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health