



April 1, 2008

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

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: Health and Well-being of Residents of Retirement Homes

On March 28, 2008, at a regular Board of Health meeting for Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached resolution from Durham Region Health Department advocating for the health and well-being of residents of retirement homes. The following resolution 2008-34 was passed:

***THAT* the Board of Health endorse the resolution made by the Durham Region Health Department dated March 7, 2008, regarding the health and well-being of residents of retirement homes, and**

***THAT* the Premier of Ontario, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Ministry of Health Promotion, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, alPHa, local Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament, and all Ontario Boards of Health be so advised.**

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/se

Copies to:

The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister Responsible for Seniors
The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting)
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)
Larry J. Miller, MP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Ontario Boards of Health

Attachment



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

BOH March Corresp. #8

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The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMMI
Regional Clerk

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

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

"Service Excellence
for our Communities"

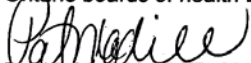


100% Post Consumer

March 7, 2008

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