

## Ontario Election 2022 Fact Sheet

### A Call for Investment in Community-Based Alternatives to Long-Term Care

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Right now, there are more than 5,000 people with disabilities under age 65 living in Ontario's long-term care facilities. Shockingly, more than 700 long-term care residents are under the age of 50.

They are there because successive Ontario governments have invested in nursing homes instead of better, community-based housing and supports.

In a **recent poll**, not a single Ontarian said that they want to move into a long-term care facility.

And who can blame them?

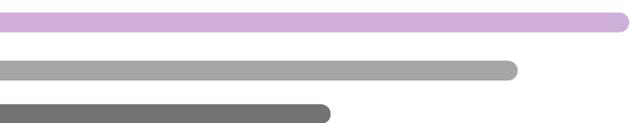
Ontario's long-term care sector was ground zero for the COVID-19 pandemic. 80% of first-wave COVID-19 deaths occurred in long-term care homes.

A growing number of people are calling for big changes in long-term care. We need to stop warehousing people in this broken system, and to invest in better alternatives.

In general, neglect and isolation are a fact of life in our province's long-term care system. Residents have a right to less than 3 hours of care each day. Since the province does not report on whether or not residents actually receive this level of care, we have no idea if they are actually getting it.

When we had to send the military into long-term care homes in 2020, what they found was horrifying. Residents were bed-bound for several weeks, developed bed sores, were force-fed, and were rarely if ever bathed properly. No one wants this for themselves or their family members.

At this very moment, one in every four long-term care residents are experiencing worsening symptoms of **depression**. Incredibly, three of every five people in these facilities are on antidepressants, and one in four are being given powerful **antipsychotic medications** to prevent them from acting out in response to the conditions they are forced to live in.





## **A Call to Action for all Election Candidates**

We want to see significant investments in small-scale, community-based models of long-term care.

We want an end to admissions of young people with disabilities in long-term care facilities.

We want people to be supported to age in homes of their choice.

We want people and their allies to have more choice and control over the supports they need.

Do you share our vision for long-term care? If you do, send this fact sheet to candidates in your riding. A list of candidates in your riding can be found **here**.

## **The Alliance on Aging and Disability is:**

A4A Ontario

Canadian Down Syndrome Society

Community Living Ontario

Disability Justice Network Ontario

Family Alliance Ontario

L'Arche Ontario

March of Dimes Canada

Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Ontario Brain Injury Association

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy

Provincial Acquired Brain Injury Network

Seniors for Social Action Ontario

Want to learn more? Contact **shawn@communitylivingontario.ca**.

