



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Moved by: _____ Date: July 27, 2020
Councillor J. Hurst

Seconded by: _____ Resolution No.: _____
Councillor M. Johnson

Item No. 12

WHEREAS COVID-19 has had a significant detrimental effect on residents of Long-Term Care and Seniors' Residences resulting in an increased incidence of serious infection and death in relation to the general adult population;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Armed Forces Report submitted to governments in Ontario and Quebec described dire and deplorable conditions in Long Term Care homes, staff shortages and lack of training and proper procedures, many of which preceded the onset of the pandemic;

AND WHEREAS Long Term Care and Senior's Homes employ unregistered health care providers such as, Personal Support Workers (PSWs), orderlies, dietary workers;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Nurses Association and other bodies have also identified the effects of staff shortages that impact the quality of care to LTC residents;

AND WHEREAS salaries in LTC and Seniors' Residence institutions are usually below the levels that such workers would be paid in hospital settings;

AND WHEREAS positions in such institutions are often part-time or casual and that benefits may not be provided to part time workers in order to keep costs low;

AND WHEREAS many workers are forced to take many part-time positions in multiple institutions in order to make ends meet;

AND WHEREAS movement of staff between multiple institutions increases the incidence and spread of viruses and other illnesses amongst staff and residents alike, especially COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS many workers refused to work during the pandemic due to poor working conditions (lack of PPE, unsafe cleaning practices, not enough staff or time to provide a safe level of care to the residents);

AND WHEREAS inspection of institutions that identify lax infection controls and detrimental employment practices have been decreased by the present government in order to save money;

AND WHEREAS situation described above during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in not only an increase incidence of disease and death, but also neglect, malnutrition, dehydration and social isolation of residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Town of Halton Hills urges Premier Ford to immediately address the poor conditions in seniors' institutions by:

1. Ensuring that every long-term care home and seniors' residence is inspected immediately and yearly thereafter and more often when negative issues have been identified.
2. Ensuring that the majority of non-registered staff are hired on a full-time basis and that benefits be offered to employees.
3. Ensuring that staff salaries be reviewed and that they be made comparable to similar staff working in hospitals and similar acute care settings.
4. Ensuring that issues surrounding neglect and unacceptable care practices are immediately corrected by any means necessary.
5. Working towards ending private, for-profit Long-Term Care homes and provide clear direction to for-profit Seniors' Residences to meet minimum care and staffing standards to prevent the unacceptable conditions that were identified during the pandemic.

AND FURTHER THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Long-Term Care, The Honourable Marilee Fullerton, Halton Region and its Municipalities, MPP Ted Arnott and the City of Sarnia in support of their similar resolution.

Mayor Rick Bonnette