

HE-D4-1

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée



Health System Strategy Division

Stratégie du système de santé

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May 1, 2009

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
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Dear Long-Term Care Home Operators and Staff:

As you may be aware, the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (LTCHA) received Royal Assent on June 4, 2007 and is the cornerstone of the government's strategy to improve and strengthen care for residents in Ontario's Long-Term Care (LTC) homes. Once proclaimed into force, the LTCHA would be the legislative authority for safeguarding resident rights, improving the quality of care and improving the accountability of LTC homes for the care, treatment and well-being of over 75,000 LTC home residents.

At this time I would like to provide you with an update on the Ministry's most recent activity involving the LTCHA and regulation development.

In recent months, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has been developing regulations which will provide the details necessary to carry out the Act. The LTCHA cannot be proclaimed into force until all the regulations necessary to carry out the Act are approved. Once the LTCHA is proclaimed into force, the current legislation and regulations governing LTC homes would be repealed and the Long-Term Care Homes Program Manual would cease to exist.

The regulation development process has been guided by the need to improve the care provided to residents in LTC homes and the need for clear and enforceable standards that will be consistently applied. As part of this process, the Ministry has been committed to working with LTC home residents, families and staff as well as sector stakeholders and clinical experts. In March 2008, we distributed a survey on key regulatory policy issues and since June 2008 have held over thirty roundtable and dialogue sessions.

As required by the LTCHA, there will be a formal public consultation process for all interested individuals and organizations to review and provide comments on all proposed initial draft regulations. At this time I would like to advise you that in the coming days, the Ministry will be posting on its public website (www.health.gov.on.ca) for 30 days for public consultation, the first set of proposed initial draft regulations under the LTCHA.

REFERRAL TO Health Services
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There will be a second posting with the balance of the proposed initial draft regulations at a later date. Further information will be provided as part of the consultation notice regarding the comment period as well as the manner in which individuals and groups may provide comments to the Ministry.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and engagement in the LTC home sector. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the proposed initial draft regulations as part of this upcoming public consultation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colleen Sonnenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen Sonnenberg
Manager, Long-Term Care Homes Act Regulation Project

c: Alison Paprica
Acting Director, Long-Term Care Homes Act Regulation Project