



VIA EMAIL

July 30, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton  
Minister of Long-term Care  
400 University Ave.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7  
[merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org](mailto:merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org)

Re: Independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

Dear Premier Doug Ford and Minister Merrilee Fullerton,

We would first like to extend our sincere praise and appreciation for your Government's work to stop the spread of COVID-19 and prioritize the safety and well-being of health-care workers with appropriate equipment. Your leadership and resolve have supported many Ontarians, including nurses, through these unprecedented times.

We are writing to you at this time to **request that your government leverage Ontario's robust nursing knowledge and leadership and consider appointing an additional commissioner who is a nurse and leader in long-term care** to the Independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission.

Our organizations are pleased to see your government move forward in establishing an Independent Commission to examine how COVID-19 has spread within long-term care homes. We are encouraged by the broad scope of the investigation and the appointment of three very experienced and respected commissioners. To strengthen the Commission even further and better achieve the full scope and expected results of the investigation, it is critical that the voices of nurses are represented at the government-appointed commission.

Registered nurses, registered practical nurses, and nurse practitioners have been doing critical work during COVID-19 by caring for vulnerable residents in long-term care settings. They have been vital to battling the pandemic and saving lives every day and are putting their own health, and that of their families, at risk. Representing over 49 per cent of health-care workers in Ontario, nurses have a deep understanding of long-term care and are uniquely positioned to provide solutions to address the problems which were further exposed by COVID-19. Furthermore, nurses not only know the landscape at the point of care, but also at a higher leadership level, including research on best practices for long-term care.

We look forward to working with you in these difficult times. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to further discuss.

Sincerely,

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