

May 26, 2020

Mr. Richard Steele  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the *Regroupement des entités de planification des services de santé en français*, we welcome the announcement by the Ministry of Long-Term Care of an Independent Commission into Ontario's long-term care system.

As the government works to finalize details of the Commission, we would like to highlight the importance of including a Francophone perspective within the scope of this work. For more than 10 years, Ontario's six French Language Health Planning Entities have seen firsthand the benefits of the early inclusion of Francophone stakeholders and communities in government initiatives. More specifically, we suggest:

- including Francophone representation within the membership of the Commission
- specifying, within the mandate of the Commission, the importance of applying a culturally and linguistically adaptive lens throughout the process
- ensuring meaningful engagement of Francophone residents and their families about their experience throughout the COVID-19 outbreak

Currently, more than 620,000 Francophones live in Ontario and more than 19.5 per cent of this population is over the age of 65. This proportion is higher than the general population which sits at 16.2 per cent.

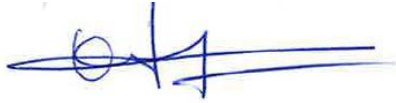
Long-term care residents are among the most vulnerable members of our society. A vulnerability which is further amplified among Ontario's Francophone population as the ability to speak a second language often deteriorates with age.

Since 2010, Ontario's French Language Health Planning Entities work collaboratively with local, regional and provincial partners, including partners within the long-term care sector, to improve access to French Language Health Services. Our joint endeavours have delivered real improvements for Francophone seniors and their families.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Ontario government and the Ministry of Long-Term Care in working to contain this pandemic and protect our most vulnerable residents. We trust the work of the Commission will provide sound guidance on improving the long-term care system and better protect resident and staff. The Commission's work will undoubtedly help build a more compassionate, resident-centred long-term care system for the future and we look forward to supporting this important undertaking.

We would be pleased to discuss how we can contribute to the success of the Commission. Please contact Estelle Duchon at [e.duchon@entite4.ca](mailto:e.duchon@entite4.ca) to arrange a meeting. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Respectfully yours,



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