



LONG-TERM CARE AND HOME CARE PRIORITIES

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and retired federally appointed judges, their partners and survivors. Federal Retirees has a proud 56-year history of advocacy on behalf of our 176,000 members and all retirees. With our volunteers and members from coast-to-coast, we continue this tradition of strong, smart advocacy campaigns to protect our members' earned pensions and benefits, and to support good policy that improves the lives all Canadians in retirement.

Policy recommendations

Federal Retirees looks forward to working with federal, provincial and territorial governments to move Canada towards national standards for long-term care and home care that would:

- Replace an underfunded patchwork system of care with a comprehensive and coherent set of standards to deliver high quality and accessible home care and long-term care services to all older Canadians, from coast-to-coast-to-coast.
It's about care that doesn't depend on your postal code.
- Be developed in collaboration with all levels of government, with standards, criteria and inspections tied to provincial funding and federal transfers.
It's about resourcing and accountability.
- Be part of a wider National Seniors Strategy and its principle for a continuum of care, from better integration in the community to better transition from home care to long-term care.
It's about the right care, in the right place, at the right time.
- Mitigate the chronic issues that have plagued the sector for years: obsolete facility designs; low levels of staffing per resident; low care time per resident; poor working conditions and very low wages for workers; low levels of regulated staff; high levels of casual staff working at different locations; usage of staffing agencies; low levels of specialists per facility; and too many residents per facility.
It's about catching up with alarms that have been sounded for years.

It's about time. And the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that Canada is out of time.

The pandemic has exposed the unacceptable conditions in many long-term care homes across the country, issues which experts and advocacy organizations – Federal Retirees included – have been raising for years. People with serious health conditions have been required to live in deplorable conditions for decades, and governments at all levels have done little to address it. Home care can improve health outcomes and reduce costs, but continuously fails to be recognized and properly funded.

It's time to do better.

The time is now for Canada's governments to act to fix the long-standing structural problems with long-term care and home care – let's start with national standards that are tied to funding, so that together we improve access, oversight and accountability, and move toward high-quality of care and better outcomes for older adults.