



Municipal Retirees Organization Ontario

Protecting the Pensions and Enhancing the Quality of Life for all OMERS Pensioners

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St
Toronto ON
M7A2C4

February 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Home-based health care and home care supports

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Municipal Retirees Organization Ontario (MROO), working on behalf of all 118,000 OMERS pensioners, I would like to congratulate you on your return to the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, and on your many accomplishments in that portfolio.

We believe that home care, which empowers seniors to live independently in their own homes as long as possible and with dignity, is the corner of Ontario's health care edifice still very much under construction. Too many of our neighbours and former colleagues fall through the cracks. We recognize your government's daunting challenge to reduce the deficit while sustaining services. So, we are doubly encouraged by your statements continuing to emphasize the need to improve home care for Ontario's seniors.

Our board intends to take a more active role in the campaign for better-coordinated and more accessible home care for seniors and – being non-partisan – to communicate accurate information to our members about what is or is not being done on that front. We are eager to lend our support for substantial action however we can.

May we respectfully request 20 minutes out of your very busy schedule to meet with me and our Vice-President? Clearly the 2012-13 budget is all-consuming at this point. So, may we ask to meet with you at a date and location of your choosing in May or June of this year, when some of the budget dust has settled?

Sincerely,

William Harford, President, Municipal Retirees Organization Ontario

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Our Purpose

The Municipal Retirees Organization of Ontario (MROO) was created as a not-for-profit corporation in 1977. All recipients of an Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) pension are eligible to join. MROO has 14,000 members, all across Ontario. We are an independent, non-partisan organization formed to voice the interests of all OMERS retirees to OMERS and to governments at all levels, to represent our membership in legislative matters that affect retirees, and to provide such other services as will improve the lot of our members.

Our Membership

Our members include retirees from union, non-union, and management backgrounds in municipalities, police forces, fire departments, libraries, hydro commissions, school boards, health units, and other employers in the OMERS pension plan. Our Board consists of nine directors, one from each of nine zones across the province. Our past and present Boards have contained a retired chief building official, municipal budget chief, municipal clerk-treasurer, school board superintendent of business, administrative assistant, school secretary, nurse, hydro commission comptroller, police superintendent, police chief, city treasurer, and municipal engineer, among others.

MROO is the largest OMERS retiree organization, and the only one with membership open to retirees from all walks of local government life.

Our Programs and Priorities

In addition, we have for 27 years sponsored health, dental, life, home and auto insurance plans designed by and for OMERS retirees. We offer scholarships to members' grandchildren as they enter second year of university or community college. We communicate regularly to all our members via printed newsletters three times yearly, and welcome over 1200 members to annual meetings in each zone.

MROO has a credible record of responsible advocacy and service to our members, and has direct communication with more than 14,000 pensioners across Ontario.