

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

General. Please see the related article in this newsletter regarding the work of the HSOS Advocacy Committee.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to recognize and thank the following members of the HSOS Advocacy Committee for their continued work: **Lucie Lombardo**, Chair (Alternate Director, Zone 1); **Bill Latham** (Director, Zone 8); **Susan Earle** (Ambassador, Zone 2); **Sharon Leggett** (Ambassador, Zone 3); **Gerry Pedwell** (Acting Director, Zone 4); **Bibi Ramdyal** (Acting Alternate Director, Zone 4); **Susan Richards** (Acting Alternate Director, Zone 7); and **Patricia (Pat) Simons** (Ambassador, Zone 9).

Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025

A new draft MROO Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 has been prepared, and Directors and Alternate Directors recently completed two follow up exercises to address the priority order of objectives to be completed during each of the

next 4 years. A final draft, will be posted to the website by the end of March. In the meantime, we remain focussed on our mission to **protect the pensions and enhance the retirement experience of OMERS pensioners** and to be recognized by our members as **your organization** for retirement services and advocacy.

I look forward to continuing to work with the current Board on your behalf and I remain optimistic about the possibility of getting out to meet members before the end of 2022. These are troubling and difficult times for all of us. Please be patient, remain safe, and be kind to your family, your friends and folks that you meet.

Keith Robicheau



MROO- HOUSING SUPPORT FOR ONTARIO SENIORS - UPDATE

Ontario's 2022 Election – Will We Be Able To “Age in Place”?

The 2022 Ontario general election will be held on June 2, 2022. Some issues you may want to raise with candidates in your area may include:

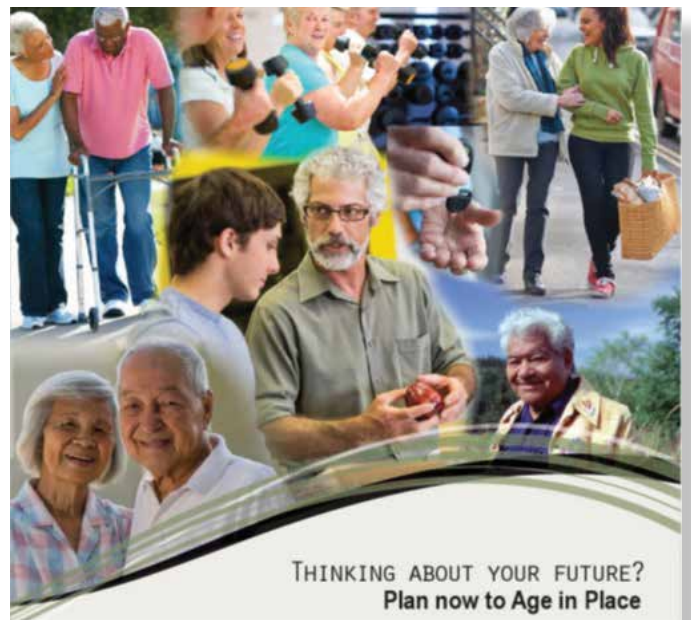
- Do you have affordable / accessible housing options in your region?
- How can seniors receive quality home care services to ensure you can stay in your home?
- How can the Provincial Government assist seniors by providing accessible programs to help us to age in place? This could include grants to retrofit your home or better seniors' services in your region.
- Do you have good emergency care services?
- Is it easy to get an appointment with a family doctor?

The following is a resource guide available on the Government of Canada website: Thinking about your future? Plan now to Age in Place

<https://www.canada.ca › forum › aging-checklist>

Fixing Long-term Care Act 2021

In its Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Ontario indicated that 12,000 long-term care beds would be developed in Ontario. In December they announced a loan



guarantee for the not-for profit LTC homes. This will be a positive step, ensuring increases in the redevelopment of the not-for-profit sector of LTC.

On December 9th, 2021, the *Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors, and Building More Beds Act, 2021* received Royal Assent, promising that residents in long-term care and retirement homes get the quality of care they deserve.

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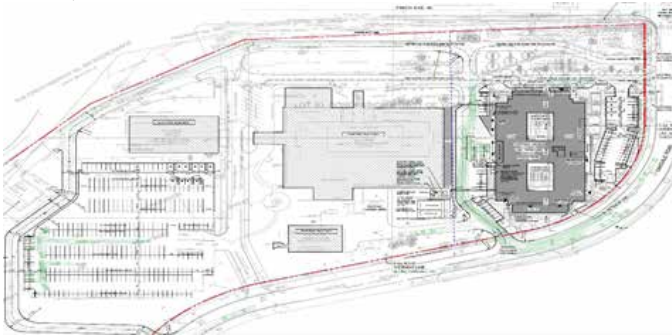
HOUSING SUPPORT FOR ONTARIO SENIORS CONTINUED

The legislation will repeal the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* and replace it with the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*. Some of the changes are noted below:

- to provide an average of four hours of direct care per resident per day by March 31, 2025, with interim goals to increase care
- establishing new compliance and enforcement tools, including doubling the fines on conviction for an offence
- strengthening the Residents' Bill of Rights to align with the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and recognizing the important and ongoing role caregivers play in resident health and well-being

Also included in the legislation are changes to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* that will significantly improve the health, protection, and well-being of residents in retirement homes across Ontario by:

- providing better quality care for residents, and better protection for those in unlicensed homes
- improving protection for residents against financial abuse
- strengthening the authority of the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA), to be a more effective regulator and administrator of the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*.



Site Plan for new LTC Home in North York

The government has proposed to publicly consult on regulations to further support and strengthen the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* and the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*. We will keep you updated on any progress.

Quick Facts – from the Government Site:

- Ontario's long-term care staffing plan commits to increasing the hours of direct care to an average of four hours per day for each long-term care resident by March 2025 and increasing care provided by allied health care providers, per resident, per day by 20% by March 2023.
- As part of this commitment, the government is investing \$4.9 billion over four years to support more than 27,000 new positions in long-term care, including personal support workers, registered nurses, and registered practical nurses.
- The government is providing an additional \$72.3 million over three years to increase enforcement capacity, including doubling the number of inspectors across the province by 2022–23. This will make Ontario's inspector to long-term care homes ratio the highest in Canada.
- The Province has made a historic \$6.4 billion investment to deliver 30,000 net new long-term care beds by 2028 and about 28,000 upgraded long-term care beds across the province.

Did You Know?

You can check out a report for a LTC home in your area, on this website:

Search Selections for Long-Term Care homes

- <http://publicreporting.ltchomes.net>

