

Sent by e-mail to: [lrcminister@ontario.ca](mailto:lrcminister@ontario.ca)

February 28, 2024

The Honourable Stan Cho  
Minister of Long-Term Care  
400 University Avenue, 6th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1S5

Dear Minister Cho,

Municipal governments provide critical services that are central to Ontario's economy and quality of life, investing almost \$65 billion annually into important public services and infrastructure, including long-term care. AMO has called on Premier Ford, through our pre-budget submission, to work together with municipal governments to undertake a social and economic prosperity review. This review is crucially important for both municipal and provincial governments to best serve the health of our communities and residents.

AMO is ready to work with the Ministry of Long-Term Care in a closer relationship to better support seniors in our communities.

### **Long-Term Predictable Funding**

Long-term, predictable funding is necessary for municipalities to be able to continue to plan for the highest possible quality of long-term care services in their communities. Currently estimates are being used but this is not accurate and can create issues with planning and budgeting. Multi-year funding allocations are needed so that municipalities can effectively plan for their long-term care budgets. We strongly recommend that the Ministry notify municipalities of their allocation in a timely manner that aligns with the municipal fiscal year.

Funding must also keep pace with the rising costs of inflation for operations and specific consideration in the funding model for northern and rural homes.

The Construction Funding Subsidy (CFS) bed per diem amount should be increased to prevent barriers to new construction and redevelopment. Further, the government should explore ways to provide lower cost financing through Infrastructure Ontario and potentially the Ontario Infrastructure Bank.

### **Provincial, Sector-Wide Health Human Resources Strategy**

The long-term care sector has been significantly impacted by funding constraints in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proliferation of staffing agencies has increased costs and added pressure to the already prevalent health human resources crisis. We are encouraged that the Province is examining the issue and look forward to hearing more about the results of this work. Recent announcements to increase the supply of nurses and personal support workers (PSWs) are also very welcome.

We encourage your Ministry to continue to address the health workforce crisis by working with the Ministry of Health to develop a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy which would significantly improve access to health services across the province by ensuring a strong health care workforce. Attracting and retaining staff continues to be a key priority for the long-term care sector and collaborative work to implement this strategy is essential to providing the best possible quality of care for long-term care residents. Attention is also needed specifically on ways to address staffing needs in rural and northern areas.

AMO looks forward to working with your Ministry to support the best quality of care for Ontario's seniors. We hope to see new investments and improved processes in these areas in the upcoming budget. AMO looks forward to continuing this discussion with the Ministry of Long-Term Care at the MOU table and as part of a broader Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

Sincerely,



Colin Best  
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Regional Councillor, Halton Region

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Melissa Thomson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario