



January 2022

A win for OLTC Advocacy and a Media Star is Born

New Regulations Posted - The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) is commencing public consultation on the proposed Regulations to support the newly passed Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021. OLTC is striking a Board sub-committee to assess the proposed regulations and will be providing feedback to the Ministry and to the Minister.

At first glance, OLTC is pleased to see that its advocacy with regards to making OLTC's Medical Director Course mandatory for new Medical Directors within 12 months of commencement of work and for existing Medical Directors, within 12 months of the regulations come into force (expected in April).

OLTC is also pleased to see the references to palliative philosophy of care and palliative care, and we look forward to working with the Ministry to support homes in improving the understanding of these terms and the importance of this quality of life care among staff, residents, families and inspectors.

Proposed new mandatory quality improvement committees at homes are to include Medical Directors and other clinicians.

The Ministry states that the regulations should deliver the following identified benefits:

- Improved quality of life and care for residents of long-term care homes.
- Greater protections for long-term care homes to optimize resident safety and enhanced sector preparedness in the event of an emergency, including outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.
- Improved sector oversight and accountability measures to enhance compliance.

New Minister - Big news also came with the sudden resignation of Minister Rod Phillips, whom OLTC had met with to advance key areas of concern. The new Minister is the Government's House Leader, Paul Calandra. OLTC has subsequently had a meeting with the Minister's staff and continues to work closely to support change that will bring about improvements in the care to residents and those working in LTC.

OLTC also led the charge with a swift response to concerns in some Public Health Units limiting physicians access to various health care settings. A letter to the Ministry noted the importance of physician presence in helping to ensure the best care for residents.

In the News - OLTCC's Board Secretary Dr. Sandy Shamon conducted a series of live interviews with CBC radio with regard to the growing number of LTC homes in outbreak. Dr. Shamon noted that while LTC residents are protected with three or four vaccinations, the general population and LTC staff are not. Dr. Shamon explains how the rapid spread in the community results in more outbreaks in LTC homes. "It only takes one staff member to test positive for evidence of spread." This has meant the need for visitor and activity restrictions in LTC homes. Dr. Shamon empathized with the isolation and noted staff shortages have been exacerbated by COVID related absenteeism. Dr. Shamon said OLTCC advocates for protection for residents and for staff and called on the community to do its part, get vaccinated and be part of the "iron ring" around the most vulnerable among us.