



November 2021

Early in October, OLTC's President Dr. Ben Robert, Past President Dr. Fred Mather and Vice President Dr. Rhonda Collins met with the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care to discuss the impending legislative reform. OLTC tabled some quick wins and longer-term initiatives to help ensure all residents of LTC receive excellent care. OLTC repeated its call for a focus on quality of life - tying funding to quality-of-life outcomes and indicators, instilling a palliative approach to care and an understanding of goals of care among all staff and caregivers, including for inspectors. The team also renewed the call for the OLTC Medical Director Course to become mandatory upon engagement as a Medical Director in LTC and for the creation of Chief Medical Officer of Long Term both provincially and regionally. Additionally, OLTC recommended access to onsite diagnostics and a move to private rooms would help residents stay in place and avoid disruptive trips to the hospital or to separate isolation rooms during illness and end of life.

OLTC was pleased to see the references to Quality of Life and a palliative philosophy in the new Legislation tabled on October 28th. Similarly, there were some positive new investments in the Fall Economic Statement tabled on November 4th. However, OLTC notes the absence of any strategies to retain and recruit physicians and Medical Directors and will be working to raise this issue with the Government going forward.

OLTC has been invited to participate in the Government's Strategic Long-Term Care Advisory Table.

OLTC wants to thank Dr. Jack Kitts of the COVID 19 Long-Term Care Commission for his generosity of time and spirit in discussing how clinicians can provide leadership on the path forward to improving Long Term Care.