



October 2023

The Honourable Stan Cho, the newly appointed Minister of Long-Term Care, attended the OLTC Practical Pearls in LTC conference in person this year. He met with the Executive Board members before addressing the delegates. Minister Cho committed to working with OLTC as it represents front line clinicians, to improve care and quality of life for residents living in Long Term Care. He also noted that after becoming Minister, he phoned his parents first and then OLTC's President, Dr. Rhonda Collins, second.



The Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Long Term Care (centre) is pictured at the Practical Pearls in LTC 2023 Conference in Toronto with OLTC Executive Board members - Drs. Sandy Shamon, Katarina Lakovic, Rhonda Collins, Kerstin Mossman, Ben Robert and Janice Legere.

OLTC has been advocating strongly for better access to diagnostic and laboratory services and, as such, was gratified when Minister Cho announced new investments for both of these types of services. MLTC is investing nearly \$10 million to help long-term care homes offer residents more diagnostic services onsite, instead of travelling to a hospital thus improving residents' quality of

life by reducing avoidable and disruptive emergency department visits and hospital stays. An Equipment and Training Fund will help long-term care homes purchase more diagnostic equipment and train staff so that they can better manage and treat residents' conditions that most often lead to preventable hospital visits. Increasing residents' access to routine and urgent laboratory services such as blood work in the home will be achieved through increased reimbursements to long-term care homes for convenient access to services provided by mobile community labs.

OLTCC's board members provided feedback during the regular MLTC Technical Advisory Table meetings as well as one-on-one with the Ministry officials. OLTCC is working to build relationships with Minister Cho's new team.