

December 2024

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Long-Term Care, the Honourable Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, tabled Bill 235, Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024.

The legislation contains measures aimed at improving dementia care and ensuring that cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual needs are respected and met. These measures are supported by \$114-million in funding and were widely welcomed and applauded.

A further clause in the Bill has received attention in the media and has been the subject of comment from various stakeholder organizations.

4. Currently, section 78 of the Act (Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2021) requires every licensee of a long-term care home to ensure the home has a Medical Director who must be a physician. The section is re-enacted to require every licensee of a long-term care home to ensure the home has a Clinical Director who must be a physician or a registered nurse in the extended class.

While OLTC has not taken a position on this, it has just completed surveying its membership to assist in providing a fulsome and constructive submission to the Ministry of Long-Term Care and to the Standing Committee on Social Policy, which will be examining the Bill. OLTC is also extensively engaging other stakeholder organizations to understand and discuss the implications of the amendment. Comments on the Bill are due by January 6<sup>th</sup> on the [Regulatory Registry](#).

OLTC has previously, and will continue to be, engaged with the Ministry on factors that may cause challenges to the recruitment and retention of Medical Directors and will continue to do so. OLTC continues to act in the best interests of the residents of LTC in keeping with the OLTC vision of all Ontarians living in LTC receiving excellent care.