

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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December 11, 2020

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you again for your letter and interim recommendations sent on December 4, 2020. Our government has made a clear commitment to protect the health and well-being of long-term care residents and staff, and improve conditions in our long-term care homes.

Your recommendations will inform the significant actions and investments we are currently making to address the urgent and high-risk situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are investing over half a billion dollars as part of our Fall Preparedness Plan to, for example, quickly supply homes with PPE, and provide staffing supports including prevention and control training. We are also ready to distribute COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are received and will prioritize long-term care home staff and residents.

We are in the second wave of the pandemic and it is important that Ontario continues to learn and adapt to this rapidly evolving situation. With regards to your most recent recommendations, I am pleased to provide a response on each action area, which is outlined in the appendix to this letter. You will note that we are making steady progress and work is well underway in many of these areas.

Our government is taking deliberate steps to resolve the long-standing and systemic challenges facing the long-term care system, and I look forward to receiving the Commission's final report and recommendations. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing the highest quality of care to Ontario's long-term care residents and a safe working environment for staff.

Thank you again for your interim recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Fullerton".

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton  
Minister of Long-Term Care

Cc Richard Steele, Deputy Minister of Long Term-Care  
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health

Enclosure:

- Appendix A – Current Status to Second Interim Recommendations