

## Long Term Care COVID-19 Commission

### Guiding Principles

The Long-Term Care Commission was established to investigate how and why COVID-19 spread in long-term care homes, what was done to prevent it and the impact of key elements of the existing system on the spread of the disease. The Commission will also make recommendations aimed at preventing future outbreaks in long-term care homes.

The Commission was established under section 78 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, which authorizes investigations respecting the causes of disease and mortality.

The Commissioners' investigation will be guided by the following principles:

#### Independence

The Commission operates independently of government. Its independence is essential to uncovering the facts, conducting an objective analysis of the issues and developing recommendations.

#### Thoroughness

The Commission will conduct a comprehensive investigation to ensure that the questions set out in its terms of reference are explored and answered.

#### Inclusiveness

The Commission will ensure that it obtains information from the full spectrum of individuals and organizations who have information relevant to determining the factors which led to the outbreak in LTC homes, and to developing strategies to prevent future outbreaks.

#### Timeliness

The Commission is working as the entire health care system continues to address the pandemic and prepares for a possible second wave of COVID-19. In addition to making recommendations to assist the government in planning for future pandemics, the

Commissioners will aim to make recommendations to prevent the further spread of disease during this pandemic.

### Flexibility

To support a thorough, inclusive and timely investigation, the Commission will use a broad range of investigatory methods.