

Alzheimer Society of Ontario welcomes, urges action on COVID-19 Commission Report
Commission highlights longstanding failures in the long-term care system to adequately care for and support people living with dementia.

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TORONTO, ON—The Alzheimer Society of Ontario welcomes the public release of the Final Report from Ontario’s Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission. Many of the findings will come as no surprise to residents, care partners, and families who have experienced Ontario’s long-term care sector. They paint a picture all too familiar to long-term care residents and those who care for them: one of chronic understaffing, underfunding, and inadequate training.

“This cannot be yet another report that collects dust on a shelf,” said Cathy Barrick, Alzheimer Society of Ontario CEO. “We owe it to the residents, care partners, families, and staff that have seen so much suffering over the past year, and well before that, to make sure this report leads to meaningful improvements.”

In particular, the Alzheimer Society urges immediate action to ensure staff, including personal support workers (PSWs) and Medical Directors, have a fulsome understanding of dementia. This must include a knowledge of person-centred care practices. With two-thirds of long-term care residents in Ontario living with dementia, training and education offered to staff at all levels must treat dementia as the rule, not the exception.

The Alzheimer Society of Ontario’s submission to the COVID-19 Commission can be accessed here:

<https://alzheimer.ca/on/sites/on/files/documents/ASO%20Submission%20to%20Ontario%27s%20LTC%20COVID-19%20Commission.pdf>

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About the Alzheimer Society

The Alzheimer Society is a Federation of 29 community support providers, operating in every corner of Ontario. We supported 165,000 clients last year, including both care partners and people living with dementia. We provide education and training to physicians and other health-care professionals, as well as the general public. With hundreds of staff and thousands of volunteers, we seek to alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, and promote research into a cure and disease-altering treatment.

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