

The Regional Municipality of York

Resolution of The Regional Municipality of York

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

Support for Additional Funding for Long Term Care

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Liberal party determined that increased funding to long term care homes by \$6,000 per resident per annum would be a reasonable sum to provide adequate care to clients;

WHEREAS, funding for direct care and services to residents to date represents \$1,916.25;

WHEREAS, long term care clients/residents often have multiple chronic illnesses and require specialized care and services. More than half suffer from dementia and other mental health illnesses, and over three-quarters require rehabilitation to maintain their level of functioning.

WHEREAS, the acuity levels in long term care facilities have risen by more than 20% since 1993 and many clients/residents require complex medical/nursing care and treatments like; intravenous treatments, gastric feeding tubes and oxygen therapy; residents suffering from dementia require a high staff ratio to meet their very complex and challenging needs which is not reflected in the funding facilities receive to the extent that these people deserve.

WHEREAS, the Level of Service Study, commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and conducted by PriceWaterhouse Coopers, which compared the amount and type of care received by residents in Ontario long term care settings with those in other Canadian, American and international jurisdictions, concluded that of the 11 jurisdictions studied, Ontario was ranked the lowest in the amount of nursing and therapy services provided to residents in long term care facilities. The study found that Ontario provides on average 2.04 hours of care/resident/day as compared to 2.44 hours of care/resident/day in the next lowest jurisdiction, Manitoba [PriceWaterhouse Coopers. (2001). *Report of a Study to Review Levels of Service and Responses to Need in a Sample of Ontario Long Term Care Facilities and Selected Comparators*].

WHEREAS, the Provincial Auditor, in his 2002 Annual Report, included the Level of Service Study in his review of long term care. He stated that they had found no evidence to indicate that the MOHLTC had addressed the results and he outlined recommendations for ensuring that, "...the funding provided to long term care facilities is sufficient to provide the level of care required by residents and that the assessed needs of residents are being met."

WHEREAS, the 2005 Casa Verde Provincial Coroner's Jury recommended that the MOHLTC immediately fund and set standards requiring all LTC facilities to increase staffing levels to, on average, no less than 0.59 RN hours per resident per day and 3.06 per resident per day overall nursing and personal care for the average Ontario Case Mix Measure (a measure of the level of care and acuity of residents at a given facility).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of The Regional Municipality of York urges the Province of Ontario to increase the per diem to residents of long term care homes in the fiscal year 2006-2007 by \$4,083.75 per resident, thereby fulfilling and enabling the significant investments necessary to meet the immediate needs of residents.