



May 27, 2005

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Monique Smith
Parliamentary Assistant
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street,
Hepburn Block, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Ms. Smith,

I would like to thank you for attending the AMO Long-Term Care Working Group meeting on May 9, 2005. We appreciate the opportunity to hear from you and at the same time, share our thoughts and recommendations on the direction of long-term care in Ontario.

AMO is pleased that the Government has stated its support for a broader range of options for delivering care and services to seniors and that this has been leveraged by the 2004 Budget commitment of \$191 million for long-term care. We are also pleased with the major strides taken by the Province to improve quality care and accountability in the sector and the commitment to legislative improvements within the coming year.

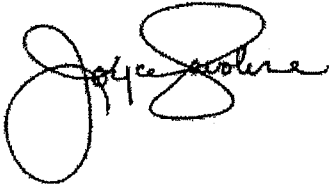
As we spoke about, municipalities are in the forefront regarding commitment to long-term care and quality of long-term care services. Unfortunately, the on-going issue that municipalities face is the growing disconnect between the desire to provide high quality services and the fiscal ability to do so. AMO has long stated that the property tax base is an inappropriate source of revenue when it comes to funding social and health services - it just isn't sustainable. As such, in order to address the mounting funding shortfalls, we encourage the Province to work towards meeting its pledge of increasing funding for long-term care to \$6,000 per resident. We would also recommend that the implementation of standards be accompanied by appropriate and matching funding to ensure that standards are met.

AMO is currently working with MMAH on changes to the Municipal Act to reduce the micro-management of municipal governments and services by the Province. I would strongly encourage your staff to contact Pat Vanini, AMO Executive Director to discuss how your review of long-term care legislation could embrace the principles we have enunciated to re-orient the provincial and municipal relationship and meet the Premier's goal for a more mature, trust-based legislative relationship.

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As the Province moves forward in its efforts to improve the quality of long-term care and services, AMO looks forward to the opportunity to work with you and your Ministry in doing so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Savoline". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joyce" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Savoline".

Joyce Savoline
Chair
AMO Long-Term Care Working Group

cc Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care
 Honorable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister
 responsible for Seniors
 Dana Richardson, Assistant Deputy Minister, MMAH
 Barbara Hall, Lead, Stakeholder Relationships, MOHLTC
 Judy Pfeifer, Executive Assistant to the Minister, MMAH