



National Association  
of Federal Retirees Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux

## Long-term care and home care priorities

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors.

With close to 170,000 members, including more than 60,000 veterans and their families, the Association has been advocating for improvements to the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians since 1963.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Federal Retirees looks forward to working with federal, provincial and territorial governments to move Canada toward implementing national long-term care standards and ensuring they are enforced with accountability tied to funding. These standards would:

- Replace an underfunded patchwork system of care with a comprehensive and coherent set of standards to deliver high quality and accessible home care and long-term care services to all older Canadians from coast to coast to coast. *It's about care that doesn't depend on your postal code.*
- Be developed in collaboration with all levels of government, with standards, criteria and inspections tied to provincial funding and federal transfers. *It's about resourcing and accountability.*
- Be part of a wider National Seniors Strategy and its principle for a continuum of care, from better integration in the community to better transition from home care to long-term care. *It's about the right care, in the right place, at the right time.*
- Mitigate the chronic issues that have plagued the sector for years: obsolete facility designs, low levels of staffing per resident, low care time per resident, poor working conditions and very low wages, low levels of regulated staff, high levels of casual staff working at multiple locations, usage of reliance on staffing agencies, low levels of specialists per facility and overcrowding. *It's about catching up with alarms that have been sounded for years.*

*It's about time. And the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that Canada is out of time.*

The pandemic exposed the unacceptable conditions in many long-term care homes across the country, issues which experts and advocacy organizations — Federal Retirees included — have been raising for years. People with serious health conditions have been forced to live in deplorable conditions for decades, and governments at all levels have done little to address the problem. Home care can improve health outcomes and reduce costs, but continuously fails to be recognized and properly funded.

It's time to do better. *The time is now for Canada's governments to act to fix the long-standing structural problems with long-term care and home care — let's start with national standards that are tied to funding, so that together we improve access, oversight and accountability, and move toward a high-quality of care and better outcomes for older adults.*

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