

Champlain Public Policy Committee (CPPC)
[Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County (ASORC) &
Champlain Dementia Network (CDN)]

PRIORITY: INCREASED STAFFING IN LONG TERM CARE HOMES

The Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for more direct care staff in long term care homes. • The vast majority (at least 73%) of residents in long term care homes has some form of dementia requiring supervision, direction and individualized care for the every day necessities we take for granted such as feeding, dressing, and personal hygiene. In addition, staff support is required for wandering and memory loss.
The Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia is the leading cause of disability in those over 60 years. • More than 160,000 Ontarians live with dementia in 2009. By 2031, this will double to 320,000. • In the Champlain region, there are about 16,000 people with dementia now. Approximately one-half of these people live in long term care homes. • Dementia care now is estimated to cost \$7 billion annually in Ontario. • Projections are that over the next 25 years, dementia will prove to have the <u>highest</u> economic, social and health cost burden of all diseases in Canada (National Advisory Council on Aging [NACA], 2004). • Residents with dementia living in long term care homes also require support and management for responsive behaviours that can result from the dementia.
The Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are better outcomes for individuals with dementia if their personal support workers have the time to implement best practices to manage responsive behaviours along with the individualized care required. • Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased frequency and quality of staff interactions with residents and families - Reduced incidence of responsive behaviours associated with the progression of dementia - Reduced incidence of medication intervention - Increased resident independence and ability to choose - Increased personal safety for all residents and staff - Increased opportunity for care with dignity
The Recommendation:	<p>That the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care increase the level of nursing and personal care staffing from an average of 3.1 paid hours per resident per day to 4 hours *</p>

* A recommendation in Shirlee Sharkey's report titled *People Caring for People: Impacting the Quality of Life and Care of Residents of Long-Term Care Homes* published in May 2008.

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/staff_care_standards/staff_care_standards.pdf