

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

May 5, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

Essential workers in Long Term Care (LTC) homes are serving the most vulnerable population while facing added risk and exposure working on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis. To help support these essential workers in LTC homes, Region of Peel Council passed a motion last week calling for the Province to implement and fund a program to provide premium pay to LTC workers for the duration of Ontario's COVID-19 state of emergency. As such, the Region welcomes the Province's measure announced on April 25, 2020 to provide frontline staff with a temporary supplemental pandemic payment.

Like many municipalities across Ontario, Peel is experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC homes. There are 28 LTC homes in Peel with the Region responsible for five. To help manage these outbreaks an Integrated Response Planning Table has been mobilized. This response table consists of representatives from Peel Public Health, Ontario Health (Central West and Mississauga Halton LHINs), Peel Paramedics, Region of Peel Health Services, William Osler Health System and Trillium Health Partners. Working collaboratively, members of this response table have been able to prioritize immediate next steps for Peel's LTC homes based on urgent needs, status updates of homes in the past 24 hours, impacts of in-home interventions and supports, and latest provincial direction.

This coordinated and integrated approach has resulted in implementing several measures in Peel's LTC homes to support the health and safety of staff such as screening all staff twice a day, ensuring personal protective equipment is available, and isolating resident cases of COVID-19. However, staffing challenges in LTC homes across Peel is increasing the complexity in addressing the current outbreaks in these homes. The support provided through the Province's supplemental pay program will help all the LTC homes to address some of the staffing requirements that are needed to manage the outbreaks.

Thank you for this additional financial support for frontline workers, which demonstrates your government's ongoing commitment to working with its partners, including the LTC sector and municipalities to help stop the spread and overcome COVID-19. The Region looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Province to implement further measures and actions during this pandemic.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you and your staff at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

Attached

cc:

The Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health

The Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance

The Hon. Merilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care

**APPROVED AT REGIONAL COUNCIL
April 23, 2020**

COVID19

8.8 Notice of Motion/Motion Relating to Advocacy for Long Term Care Funding

Moved by Councillor Downey,
Seconded by Councillor Ras;

Whereas, health care workers in the Region of Peel Long Term Care homes are essential workers serving the most vulnerable population while facing added risk and exposure working on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis;

And whereas, COVID-19 outbreak has been declared in four Region of Peel Long Term Care homes with 25 residents and 19 staff testing positive and six resident deaths (as of May 4);

And whereas, there has been challenges to ensure required staffing at Region of Peel Long Term Care homes;

And whereas, in order to manage outbreak requirements, a minimum of 20 additional staff is needed 24 hours a day in each of the homes in outbreak;

And whereas, the Region of Peel has reasonably taken measures to support the health and safety of staff through supportive measures such as screening all staff twice a day, ensuring personal protective equipment is available, and isolating and cohorting resident cases of COVID-19;

And whereas, the Province has implemented a COVID-19 Action Plan to Protect Long Term Care Homes by providing greater measures to testing, screening, surveillance, outbreak management, and growing the long term care workforce;

And whereas, other provinces and worker unions have begun negotiating premiums to support front line health workers;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, advocate to the Premier, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long Term Care to request that the Province implement and fund a program to provide premium pay to long term care workers for the duration of Ontario's COVID-19 state of emergency.

Carried