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Sienna Senior Living supports Ontario Independent Commission on Long-Term Care

Sienna Senior Living fully supports the Government of Ontario's commitment to launch a review to address longstanding and systemic issues in long term care that have been further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We agree that the government must act quickly and decisively and believe that the Commission should focus on immediate actions to help long-term care fight COVID-19. Specifically, there is a need to:

- maintain measures to enable adequate staffing levels and skill mix, including infection prevention and control expertise;
- provide ongoing testing of residents, staff and families with a 24-hour turnaround for results;
- ensure priority access to Personal Protective Equipment;
- provide greater on-site physician coverage;
- ensure provisions for safe visiting with residents; and,
- establish a development program to enable the replacement of older 'C' class homes with 4-bedroom rooms.

The Commission should also address long standing as well as emerging issues associated with COVID- 19 including the creation of capacity in every long term care home to manage extensive infection prevention and control protocols and access to wireless technology for residents.

Sienna looks forward to collaborating with the provincial government, unions and health system partners to create a better system for the 36,000 seniors in Ontario currently waiting for access to long term care and for the aging population in the coming decades.