

LTC Pearls

THE SECOND WAVE IS COMING

Attached is a letter sent to Premier Doug for and Ministers of Health and LTC, Honourable Christine Elliott and Dr. Merrilee Fullerton on Monday, September 21. Along with OLTCC, signatories to the letter were Ontario Long Term Care Association, AdvantAge Ontario, Family Councils Ontario, Ontario Association of Resident Councils and CanAge. The letter warns that the government has not yet put in place the necessary supports and preventative measures to protect residents, staff, family members and visitors against the anticipated second wave of COVID-19. Ontario is behind other provinces in the recruitment and training of new front-line staff.

The five action includes include the challenges and needs for Medical Directors and clinicians: *“Our physician leaders are critical to the health and safety of our residents, and the confidence of staff. Recognizing that they work in multiple care settings, including hospitals, and to prevent the spread of infection, some physicians provided virtual support to long-term care residents during wave one. This is effective when there exists strong coordination and collaboration with members of the care team and home management. In preparation for a second wave, better coordination and support for Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians is required to safely and effectively care of residents as an integrated part of the long-term care home care team. This may include a better compensation model to enable physicians to spend more time providing medical management of LTC homes overall, whereas now physicians are only compensated for the direct care of an individual patient. The OLTCC also advocates for additional measures to ensure clear guidance during a second wave.”*

Today, the Ontario government announces the largest provincial testing initiative in Canada by providing \$1.07 billion to expand COVID-19 testing and case and contact management. "We've put over \$1 billion on the table to help track, trace and isolate cases of COVID-19 through the largest and most robust pandemic testing initiative in the country," said Premier Ford. "By ramping up our daily testing capacity to 50,000 tests and closely monitoring our long-term care homes and schools, we can quickly respond to any outbreaks and surges and stop the spread of this deadly virus in its tracks."

[Expand COVID-19 testing and contact tracing](#)

PRACTICAL PEARLS FOR LTC, 2020

This year's virtual conference meets the challenge of COVID-19 by offering an accredited, interactive and flexible conference over four-half days. Live sessions will encourage questions and use of the chat function. Conference information at: <https://www.oltcc.ca/annual-conference>



The conference will occur on four half days, October 16, 21, 23 and 30. Sessions are recorded for those who cannot attend all the live sessions. A highlight of the conference every year is the LTC Physician of the Year. Deadline for nominations is September 28.



DR. JAMES EDNEY

The LTC Physician of the Year Award was introduced by OLTCP in 2016. The initial recipient was Dr. James Edney. He spent his LTC career “with a driving principle of Quality Improvement and trying to make things better,” About twenty years ago, he took on the Presidency of OLTCP. During his leadership a number of physician leaders were recruited, including those who developed the core curriculum for Medical Directors and an annual conference “that is independent of the pharmacy industry”. Dr Edney focused on LTC for the last 30 of 50 years in practice. His interest in LTC began when he was a family physician in London, Ontario, in 1975. As Medical Director of St. Mary’s chronic care hospital, he led the development of one of the first palliative care units (4 beds) in Ontario.

After moving to Toronto, he decided to concentrate his practice in rehabilitation and long term care. In 1984, he was appointed Medical Director of Castleview Wychwood Towers. He remained at this 450-bed facility until he retired in 2015. At CWT he helped develop the "special care" unit for residents with dementia and behavioural problems, “I worked with some incredible people, Nurses, PSWs, dieticians, pharmacists, Nurse Practitioners and administrators. The privilege of working with these people was a highlight of my tenure, and we were particularly proud of the Geriatric Mental Health Outreach Team program that we developed and has been used across the Province,”

James is retired to the Huntsville area. His wife, Dr. Rachel Edney, was also a long term care physician and is a former President of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons. OLTCP/OLTCC is grateful for his contribution to the continuing Vision: All Ontarians in LTC will receive excellent care.

THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION

The Commission is established under *section 78 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act*, which authorizes investigations respecting the causes of disease and mortality. Thus, recommendations aimed at preventing future outbreaks in long-term care homes can be made and acted upon during the course of the Commission, prior to the report date of April 30, 2021. The Commission “has the power to consider any further areas where the government should take action to help prevent the future spread of disease in long-term care homes.” OLTCC will present to the Commissioners on September 30. The website for the Commission is

<http://www.ltccommission-commissionsld.ca/>