



Safe Long-Term Care Act

**Presentation to the United
Nations Economic
Commission for Europe
Standing Working Group on
Ageing**

November 20, 2023

Background

CANADA'S POPULATION IS AGING

- From 2016 to 2021, the number of persons aged 65 and older rose by 18.3% to 7 million.
- By 2051, those 65 and older are expected to represent one quarter of the entire population.
- Over the next 30 years, the number of persons aged 85 and older could triple from 861,000 to 2.7 million.



OLDER CANADIANS NEED MORE CARE

- 80% of Canadians over 80 years of age have at least one chronic condition.
- Care for seniors represents nearly half of all health care expenditures.



LONG-TERM CARE STANDARDS

- In January 2023, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), Health Standards Organization (HSO) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group released two new complementary, independent long-term care standards.
- Together, the standards focus on the delivery of safe, reliable, and high quality long-term care services; safe operating practices and infection prevention, and control measures in long-term care homes.

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

- The government has committed to the development of “a Safe Long Term Care Act to ensure seniors get the care they deserve.”



Engagement Process

Engagement activities to support development of the **Safe Long-Term Care Act**:

- **Three Government Officials roundtables**, focused on the following themes:
 - Building resident-centred, inclusive care aligned with long-term care standards (or substantially similar standards, policies and practices)
 - Balancing resident dignity and quality of life while promoting high quality, safe long-term care, and buildings (including elder abuse)
 - Appropriate roles for the federal government in supporting the quality and safety of long-term care
- **Two Ministerial roundtables**, focused on the following themes:
 - Accountability, data collection and reporting
 - Adoption of long-term care standards and the health workforce, including wages
- **Online survey** was launched for 60-days (July 21, 2023, to September 21, 2023)
- **Federal-Provincial-Territorial consultations**
- **Indigenous Engagement**
- **Bilateral discussions with stakeholder organizations**



Who We Engaged With

- The government has been leading engagement activities with:
 - Indigenous partners
 - Provincial and territorial government representatives
 - Experts and academia
 - Long-term care residents and their families
 - Experts in the care of older adults and long-term care, including personal support workers
 - People in Canada from a broad range of regions, backgrounds and experiences



What We Heard

Feedback received through the extensive consultations from spring to fall 2023 elicited three important themes:

- Increasing quality of life for residents and recognizing diversity;
- Providing safe, high-quality and culturally safe care; and
- Improving transparency and accountability for system results



THANK YOU

