

Leaders in LONG TERM CARE

A shared belief in the value of not-for-profit delivery of services for seniors led to the founding of OANHSS more than ninety years ago, and it remains the driving force today.

Our mandate and membership have expanded over the years to reflect the ever-broadening seniors' services delivery system. Our continuing and primary role, however, is to provide a forum for effective leadership and support and to represent members' issues with a strong voice so that they remain viable in a competitive and changing environment.

The work of the Association falls into four core areas: advocacy, communications, member services and education. Within each of these, member input and expertise drive the direction and actions taken.

We facilitate the coming together of organizations that are committed to providing high quality care, services and accommodation for seniors in Ontario. Members rely on us to represent and communicate their needs and interests to government, to help them interpret relevant legislation, to work with them to increase public awareness of the value of not-for-profit delivery, to gather and share sector information and best practices and to use our collective expertise to influence public policy.

Most importantly, they rely on us to work with funders and other provider and consumer groups to ensure that services for seniors are effective, resident-oriented and quality driven.

And we rely on members. They are the field experts and our direct link to consumers. Their knowledge and experience is invaluable as we strive together to achieve the highest quality of life for residents and clients.

As one of the oldest provincial associations representing the not-for-profit long term care sector, OANHSS continues to be a leading organization that is shaping the future of care, services and housing for seniors in Ontario.

About OANHSS

OANHSS is the provincial association representing not-for-profit providers of long term care, services and housing for seniors. Members include municipal and charitable long term care homes, non-profit nursing homes, seniors' housing projects and community service agencies. Member organizations operate over 27,000 long term care beds and over 5,000 seniors' housing units across the province.

Mission

We represent and support our members in their provision of quality not-for-profit long term care, seniors' community services and housing.

Vision

To be the recognized leader and champion of not-for-profit long term care, seniors' community services and housing.

Values

WE BELIEVE IN:

- Independent, not-for-profit delivery of long term care, seniors' community services and housing.
- The strength and credibility of speaking with a unified voice.
- Leadership through shared learning, collaboration and communication.
- Encouraging and recognizing personal and organizational excellence.
- Integrated continuums of care and services that support choice and dignity.
- Independent governance that supports an integrated health delivery system that is responsive to community needs.



Members

The origins of many OANHSS members are deeply rooted in the ethno-cultural, faith and community groups they serve.

They are respected and recognized not only for their dedication and commitment to quality care and services, but also for the active and integral role they play as employers, supporters and contributors to their local communities.

From the complex care requirements of the frail elderly to the needs of more independent seniors, OANHSS members have been at the forefront of innovation in service delivery.

Members initiated meals on wheels, older adults' special rehabilitation programs, respite care services, day programs, special care for those with Alzheimer's disease, home support services and older adult centres.

Today, members offer a diverse and comprehensive network of not-for-profit care and support services across the province. Many have developed a range of programs, from support services for seniors living in the community, to seniors' housing and supportive housing to long term care homes for those who require a higher level of care. These "continuums of care" are the hallmark of the not-for-profit sector.

The tenants, residents and clients that members serve are increasingly better informed and are looking for high quality, flexible and personalized services. OANHSS and its members support this direction and believe that the long term care system should be consumer-driven to ensure that dignity, self-determination and need are the controlling factors.

In addition to serving seniors, the common thread linking members is their not-for-profit operating philosophy. All public, municipal and charitable funds received are used to benefit residents and clients.

The OANHSS membership is further strengthened by the valuable partnership that exists with commercial suppliers, allied professional and provider associations and interested individuals who are involved as associate members.

OANHSS Members

Long term care homes

Charitable and municipal long term care homes, non-profit nursing homes – publicly funded and regulated and operated on a not-for-profit basis.

Seniors' housing

Government funded and self-funded (e.g. life lease) housing and private, non-profit retirement homes developed specifically for older adults.

Seniors' supportive housing

Accommodation that offers a varying range of personal care and homemaking services to support independent living – services may be publicly funded or available on a fee for service basis.

Community service agencies

Deliver outreach services to seniors living independently.



Not-for-Profit Difference

In Ontario long term care services are provided by not-for-profit organizations as well as for-profit operators. Both are funded and regulated by the provincial government. Not-for-profits, however, stand apart in several important ways:

- **Re-investment in Care**
Surplus funds stay within the organization. Taxpayer dollars are not taken out of the long term care system as profit for investors.
- **Strong Community Support**
Professional caregivers are supported by thousands of people who volunteer their time.
- **Innovation and Excellence**
Not-for-profits have been at the forefront of innovation in service delivery.
- **Choice for Ontarians**
Research shows that a majority of Ontarians want to maintain a balance between not-for-profit and for-profit delivery of long term care services.

Government support for not-for-profit delivery is embedded in both the legislation governing Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and more specifically in the new Long Term Care Homes Act:

The people of Ontario and their Government are committed to the promotion of the delivery of long-term care home services by not-for-profit organizations.



OANHSS

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