



AdvantAge
Ontario

Advancing Senior Care

Media Backgrounder: Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW) – Ontario Pilot (Policy Overview)

Overview

Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW) is an innovative model that expands the role of long-term care (LTC) homes to support older adults living in the community. Today, AdvantAge Ontario is announcing the sites selected for the first three Ontario pilots:

- Algoma Manor (Algoma)
- Fairview Mennonite Homes (Cambridge)
- Perley Health (Ottawa)

Led by AdvantAge Ontario, the Ontario pilots build on the success and growth of the Nursing Home Without Walls model, originally developed in New Brunswick. This project is funded by Healthcare Excellence Canada and The Waltons Trust and aligns with a broader pan-Canadian approach supported by these organizations.

Why It Matters

Ontario's health system is facing increasing demand from a rapidly aging population, rising complexity of care needs, and persistent gaps in access to coordinated home and community supports. Many older adults experience fragmented services, social isolation, and avoidable transitions to emergency departments or long-term care placement. NHWW responds to these pressures by supporting seniors earlier, before they reach a point of crisis.

How It Works

Nursing Home Without Walls uses long-term care homes as community-based hubs to deliver and coordinate supports for older adults living at home but who require additional support to remain there. It is person-centred, in that care reflects the client's individual needs, goals and cultural context. It is free. Most importantly, it uses existing community services and infrastructure and adds services only where needed. Services offered include:

- Clinical and personal care outreach
- Social, wellness and prevention programs
- System navigation and care coordination
- Transportation and access supports

How It Impacts the System

Nursing Home Without Walls represents a shift from reactive care to a more proactive, integrated model. It is a practical, evidence-informed approach to modernizing seniors' care that will help more people stay at home longer while reducing avoidable hospitalizations and delaying long-term care admissions.

Ontario Pilot

The Ontario pilot will run from 2026 to 2028 at a total cost of \$420,000. It is being implemented across three selected sites, reflecting diverse community contexts. AdvantAge Ontario is the jurisdictional lead for Ontario, supported by a steering committee with representatives from government, government agencies, and community partners.

Policy Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The NHWW Ontario pilot aims to generate evidence to support:

- Scalable models of community-based care anchored in LTC
- Reduced system pressures through delayed or avoided institutional care
- Improved access, equity, and culturally appropriate services
- Enhanced patient and caregiver experience