

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Associate Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

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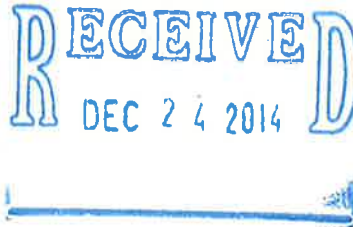
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CC: L. Johnson

**DEC 17 2014**

Mr. Bill Gibson  
Area Director, Unifor  
5 Executive Place  
Kitchener ON N2P 2N9



HLTC2966MC-2014-8048

Mr. Brian Milne  
Warden, Grey County  
595 9th Avenue East  
Owen Sound ON N4K 3E3

Dear Mr. Gibson and Mr. Milne:

Thank you for your letter received on October 1, 2014, in which you expressed concerns about the challenges facing long-term care (LTC) homes in Ontario. I want to assure you that the government is committed and continues to make investments in the long term care sector to improve the lives of residents.

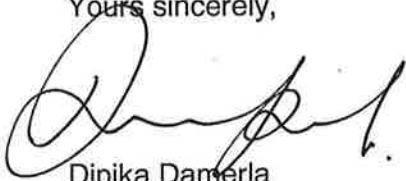
The government recently announced a 2 per cent funding increase in resident care funding in recognition of the changes in complexities of residents. This funding announcement is part of an annual review process to make the funding levels responsive to observed needs in the LTC home sector. The government also provides additional funding and resources through a series of targeted initiatives, such as:

- The successful implementation of the Behavioural Supports Ontario initiative, which includes a \$59-million investment, the hiring of over 600 health care professionals to support residents with complex/challenging behaviours, and the training of over 34,000 staff.
- The investment of \$10 million into LTC home staff training and development that focused on the prevention of abuse and neglect and supporting the care of residents with complex/challenging behaviours.
- The investment of \$10 million to further support resident safety by supporting LTC homes with the purchase of supplies and equipment for residents with intense and specialized needs.

Furthermore, the government has implemented policy changes to improve managerial flexibilities to enable LTC homes make better use of their funding allocations according to local needs. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve the funding system and the quality of care delivered to LTC residents as part of the overall reform of healthcare delivery in Ontario. Your feedback is a valuable contribution to this process.

I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of long-term care home residents and their families, and I'll keep your suggestions in mind as we continue working to strengthen our health care system.

Yours sincerely,



Dipika Damerla  
Associate Minister

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