

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Ottawa Citizen

Re: [Funding More Long-Term Beds Isn't Enough](#)

As CEO of the Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) I read the Ottawa Citizen's Editorial "Funding more Long-Term Care Beds Isn't Enough," with interest.

We need to consider other options in this province.

Empowering seniors with choice about how and where they wish to receive support is imperative.

Which is why ORCA has been championing a Senior Services Benefit, a monthly allowance sent directly to a senior to help pay for the care of their choice. It's designed to alleviate financial pressures placed on seniors and would enable them to stay in the community among friends and family longer.

It's an approach that helps keep seniors out of long-term care, out of hospital and in a home of their choice – longer.

And it's an approach which is being used in many other jurisdictions - here in Canada, and abroad, with great success.

Consider that a 2018 poll conducted by DART Insight and Communications for ORCA clearly shows that 79 per cent of Canadians worry about having enough money to pay for their care when they need it; while 91 per cent of Canadians agreed that they do not want to be socially isolated in their later years. A Senior Services Benefit would absolutely help those seniors.

What are we waiting for?

Cathy Hecimovich, CEO, ORCA

