

**STATEMENT FROM THE ONTARIO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION (ORCA)
ON HOME CARE ONTARIO'S RECENT POLL:**

It is time to change the way that we care for seniors in Ontario.

The pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic have exposed what a sector dedicated to serving seniors already knows:

- that the traditional approach needs work;
- that including all care providers necessary to ensure a robust continuum of care is imperative; and
- in order to put seniors first, we must embrace new ideas and innovations.

We agree with the [Home Care Ontario poll](#) that more funding is needed to support seniors in their homes.

As this important public policy conversation continues – it is critical to understand and recognize the role of retirement communities in the continuum of care. Retirement communities are people's homes. Places where they come together with friends, and live well, with purpose.

Retirement communities are safe, regulated and inspected, providing care and piece of mind to the seniors who choose to live with us, and to their families.

Throughout the pandemic, retirement communities have worked tirelessly to keep seniors safe and supported so that they were never, ever home alone. We built on our already stringent infection control and prevention policies and implemented all of the directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The results of rigorous testing within our sector by Public Health Ontario demonstrate:

- Confirmed cases in Ontario retirement communities (residents and staff) represent 3.97 per cent of all cases in the province.
- A prevalence rate of 1.27 per cent of COVID-19 in retirement community residents.

Retirement communities are ready to be part of the much-needed solution to Ontario's health care system challenges. We are an integral part of the continuum of care. We can help keep seniors safe - out of long-term care and hospital, and in a home that they love.

We look forward to being part of this important conversation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Hecimovich".

Cathy Hecimovich
CEO, Ontario Retirement Communities Association



About the Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA):

Since 1977, the Ontario Retirement Communities Association has been the voice of Ontario's retirement communities and we remain committed to setting a standard of operational excellence in the sector. Caring for seniors is our most important job and we take that responsibility very seriously.

For more information, please visit our website: www.orcaretirement.com

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