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## BULLETIN 18

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### LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED FUNDING

Long-term care residents living in the Central West LHIN will benefit from increased access to personal care thanks to a recent injection of \$1.07 million into the community by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The monies are part of a provincial investment of \$23.3 million to create 873 new personal support worker positions in long-term care homes across Ontario.

"Access to quality health care, when and where it is needed, continues to be a focus for this government," says David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "This latest investment will contribute to strengthening staff capacity in the long-term care sector, which ultimately means more bedside care for residents."

The funding will be distributed among 23 long-term care homes across the Central West LHIN generating more than 78,000 hours of additional personal support care time for long-term care residents in 2008/09. There are currently 3,313 long-term care beds in the LHIN.

"This announcement means that long-term care residents throughout our LHIN will benefit from increased hands-on care including assistance with meals, personal hygiene care, dressing and undressing, and transfers into a bed, chair or vehicle," says Joe McReynolds, Board Chair, Central West LHIN. "We are delighted that the province is moving forward with this initiative to further enhance the care provided in long-term care settings throughout our LHIN and province."



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## THE IMPACT OF FUNDING CLOSE TO HOME

Those working within the LHIN's long-term care sector welcomed the funding news. "We provide staffing 24-hours a day throughout the week to deliver consistent care and work routines that meet the daily needs of long-term care home residents," says Carolyn Clubine, Director, Long-Term Care Division, Region of Peel Health Department. "This funding means the residents of the long-term care homes operated by the Region of Peel will benefit from additional personal care services offered by staff assisting with activities of daily living such as dressing, eating, toileting and resident transfers."

Another of the local long-term care homes to welcome the funding announcement is Dufferin Oaks Home for Senior Citizens in the County of Dufferin. The 160-bed facility looks forward to expanding the number of hours that residents spend with personal support workers. "Our residents and their families will start to notice a difference in the direct care they receive from personal support workers each day, particularly during meal times," says Brenda Urbanski, Administrator, Dufferin Oaks Home for Senior Citizens. "Our personal support workers will be able to spend more time helping residents in the mornings, including getting to breakfast in a more timely fashion, as well as offering increased support during the supper meal and in the evenings."

Central West LHIN CEO Mimi Lowi-Young notes that the increased funding ultimately means that long-term care residents will have better access to the people who help them with the tasks of daily living that so many of us often take for granted.

"Most of us can get up in the morning, get ourselves dressed and sit down to eat breakfast, but for those living in long-term care settings, performing these activities on their own can be challenging," says Lowi-Young. "Personal support workers play such a vital role in contributing to the dignity and quality of life of long-term care home residents by supporting them with these routines, and that's why this injection of funding is so important. It's a positive step forward in further improving resident care in our LHIN."

For more information about the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's announcement and the breakdown in the allocation of this funding to long-term care homes in the Central West LHIN, please visit the Central West LHIN website at

[www.centralwesthin.on.ca](http://www.centralwesthin.on.ca)

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