

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Deputy Minister

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May 29, 2020

Mr. Christopher Tyrell
Committee Clerk
Procedural Services Branch
Legislative Assembly of Ontario
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Dear Mr. Tyrell:

Thank you for your letter dated April 28, 2020, requesting an update on the Ministry of Long-Term Care's (ministry) action plans and timetable for addressing the recommendations in Section 3.05 (Food and Nutrition in Long-Term Care Homes) of the 2019 Annual Report of the Auditor General.

Please find enclosed the ministry's submission relating to your inquiry.

The Office of the Auditor General (OAGO) provided the ministry with the list of audit recommendations on December 4, 2019. At that time, the ministry advised the OAGO that the timetable for addressing the recommendations would be two fiscal years.

As I'm sure you are aware, the government has been using its full might to defend against COVID-19 since the global pandemic reached Ontario. This pandemic has disproportionately affected Ontario's long-term care homes, which have experienced unprecedented effects related to COVID-19 and we have been taking extensive, on-going measures to protect residents and staff. Since early March, the ministry has been working around the clock to support our long-term care homes in addressing the devastating impact of this virus.

To do this, the ministry has leveraged all available resources—including the redeployment of staff who put in place policy and process changes to address recommendations made by the Auditor General.

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During this challenging time, the ministry's primary concern is protecting the health and wellbeing of residents, staff and their families. Once the long-term care system has stabilized, the ministry will resume its work on addressing the auditor's recommendations and will be in a better position to respond to this request.

I thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister

c: Catherine Fife, MPP, Chair of the Committee
Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Term Care Operations Division
Sanjeev Batra, Director, Health Audit Service Team, Treasury Board Secretariat