

November 4, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am the daughter of Robert E. Ouellette, a deceased resident of Orchard Villa LTC Home in Pickering, Ontario and am also writing this on behalf of my mother, his widow Rachelle Ouellette.

My father was a resident there from February 26, 2016 and died due to complications from Covid 19 on May 3, 2020

He died because the home he was in did not take the necessary precautions to protect him and nearly a hundred other residents from the Covid 19 virus. In our opinion, his death is a direct result of Southbridge Care Homes failure to provide the necessary PPE to keep the staff protected. They also clearly failed to establish appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the vulnerable residents in their care.

This negligence is abundantly obvious given that this home had the highest number of active Covid 19 cases and the highest number of long term care home deaths in the province. Health care workers from Lakeridge Health and Canadian Military personnel were called in to assist attests to the fact that they had not taken appropriate measures to prevent the spread and properly manage the initial cases. The report filed by the Canadian Military personnel brought to light multiple personal neglect and sanitary issues that the resident's families had been complaining about for a long time. Complaint letters were filed with the Ministry of Long Term Care and ours from January 17, 2019 was never acknowledged or addressed despite accompanying photo evidence of the neglect.

My Dad suffered a bleeding stroke that triggered early onset dementia several years before becoming a resident at Orchard Villa. When he arrived he was ambulatory, ate on his own and was otherwise a very healthy 73 year old man. His rapid decline was due to a laundry list of neglect but the final straw was the fact that Southbridge Care Homes failed their residents and their families even more miserably during the pandemic. It took a pandemic for these issues to be recognized and they should not be dismissed by allowing them to go unpunished by passing Bill 218.

It is incredibly important to us that they be held directly accountable for each and every one of these deaths and for all the resident neglect that took place in their facility. My father was taken from us way too soon and his death could have been prevented if Southbridge Care Homes had operated their long term care facility with Dignity, Respect and Integrity.

On behalf of my family, **I strongly urge you not to pass Bill 218** and to hold those responsible accountable for their neglect.

Respectfully,

Liliane A. Del Vecchio, daughter

Rachelle R. Ouellette, wife of 54 years

