

April 1, 2021

**Re: Long-Term Care: Protect the Vulnerable**

Dear *Val van der Broek,*

I am writing on behalf of the CFUW/UWC, White Rock/Surrey, an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) that works to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad.

We are calling on you to urge the federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments of Canada to establish common evidence-based standards that ensure all vulnerable Canadians can live in safety, comfort and dignity and have access to high quality, affordable long-term care (LTC).

On September 23, 2020, the Governor General of Canada, presented the following:

"The greatest tragedies of this pandemic are the lives lost in long-term care homes. Elders deserve to be safe, respected, and live in dignity ... The federal government will take any action it can to support seniors while working alongside the provinces and territories."

The COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 exposed long-standing, negligence, inadequate care and a lack of preparation in many Canadian long-term care (LTC) residences. These deficits resulted in high rates of infection and death in LTC residents. More than 80% of all COVID-19 deaths in Canada were in LTC facilities, as of June 2020.<sup>1</sup>

As a society, we have ignored the care of these vulnerable citizens who need skilled assistance and depend on the shamefully undervalued work of personal support workers and LTC nurses. We need our governments – federal and provincial – to work together to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

Given the long-standing deficits in care and protection in Canadian LTC facilities, CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to define and implement universal, high-quality LTC that is achieved by, but not limited to ensuring:

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Institute for Health Information. "Pandemic Experience in the Long-Term Care Sector: How Does Canada Compare With Other Countries?,". Published May 25, 2020, last updated June 2020. <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/covid-19-rapid-response-long-term-care-snapshot-en.pdf>

- A. that person-in-care/staff ratios are consistent with evidence based best practices and that care providers are certified and well-paid with prorated benefits;
- B. that all new LTC facilities are built on a non-profit model;
- C. annual, unscheduled on-site inspections;
- D. compliance of best practices and licensing standards;
- E. that needs-based education and training is provided to all LTC staff;
- F. that LTC staff have the equipment and support to properly care for clients;
- G. that all LTC facilities have a plan, equipment and the capacity to quickly implement infection control measures to protect residents and staff

We ask that you ensure your party is committed to protecting the rights, health, and safety of elderly persons and the vulnerable in Canada.

We call on you to work together with all levels of government to establish common evidence-based standards that ensure all vulnerable Canadians can live in safety, comfort, and dignity and have access to high-quality, affordable long-term care.

We would be pleased to meet to discuss this letter and our concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Lowe,  
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CFUW/UCW White Rock Surrey

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