

November 12, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write to you today on a matter of urgency on behalf of our one million members across this country. We urge you to show swift leadership and to act on the number one priority of all Canadians today ---National Reform of the Long Term Care Industry.

- You can act now to bring long-term care fully into the public system and regulate it under the Canada Health Act.
- You can eradicate the current exorbitant profits from the “care” system by enacting and enforcing national standards that ensure proper staffing levels and high-quality care.
- You can save lives by doing what Canadians are demanding---accelerating recruitment of care professionals and regulating the LTC sector to ensure the provision of safe and dependable services for our most frail citizens.

Life-saving action during a pandemic should not depend on the province or territory where you live.

A national plan for Long Term Care could resemble the federal-provincial-territorial agreements that were reached in 2018 on home care and mental health.

It's time for the government to start treating long-term care the same way, by making it an accessible, publicly funded, and universal service in all provincial/territorial jurisdictions.

In doing so, our most vulnerable seniors and long-term care residents of any age can place trust in a care system that puts their needs ahead of some stakeholders bent on making the most profit. All Canadians are deserving of national standards of care with reliable funding to ensure residents and workers in long-term homes are safe, healthy and treated with kindness and respect.

Again, on behalf of our members from coast to coast to coast I call on you and your government to take action now. The NPF membership awaits your actions in policy within Parliament and a reply to share widely.

Sincerely,

Patricia McAuliffe

President, National Pensioners Federation

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Cc: Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Conservative Party  
Yves-Francois Blanchet Leader of the Bloc-Quebecois

