

## JOINT LETTER FROM THE ONTARIO LONG TERM CARE ASSOCIATION (OLTCA) AND ONTARIO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION (ORCA) TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Re: "If you can get your relatives out of seniors' homes, try to do so as fast as you can" by André Picard - April 2, 2020

André Picard is urging Canadians to bring home residents in long-term care during the COVID-19 crisis. We are extremely concerned about the impact of this article. You may not have been aware that the vast majority of residents need high levels of care. It would be unrealistic to suggest that most families can safely replace this support at home without the expertise, supplies and practices and protocols provided by our professionals.

Long-term care homes and retirement residences are experienced in managing outbreaks and need the support of government for the prioritization of testing and supplies – support that the government is working hard to provide. The public should also fully participate in isolation protocols to reduce the spread of the virus to health-care workers, who are continuing to take care of our vulnerable and beloved family members.

Thousands of dedicated long-term care and retirement staff are working tirelessly and we cannot thank them enough for the compassion and professionalism they provide during these unprecedented times. We would also like to thank families for the many gestures of appreciation they show staff on a daily basis. We would like to see more coverage of these people of courage and honour.



**Donna Duncan**  
CEO, Ontario Long Term Care Association



**Cathy Hecimovich**  
CEO, Ontario Retirement Communities Association



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