

# YORK REGION SUBMISSION TO ONTARIO LONG-TERM CARE COVID-19 COMMISSION

Presented to  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Presented by  
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**York Region**

# PURPOSE

- Review proposed submission to the Ontario Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission
- Highlight key recommendations based on experiences operating the Region's two Long-Term Care Homes during the pandemic



# INQUIRY INTO LONG-TERM CARE AND COVID-19

- **On July 29, 2020**, Province appointed independent Commission to investigate how COVID-19 spread in LTC homes and adequacy of Province's response
- Commission has already heard from many stakeholders across the sector
- Commission released first set of interim recommendations in October 2020 and second set in December 2020

# SUBMISSION DEVELOPMENT



## Literature review

- Reviewed sector research from key stakeholders in long-term care



## Consultation

- Subject matter experts from all areas of both Homes
- Department and corporate staff
- Executives from Residents' Councils of both Homes



## Survey

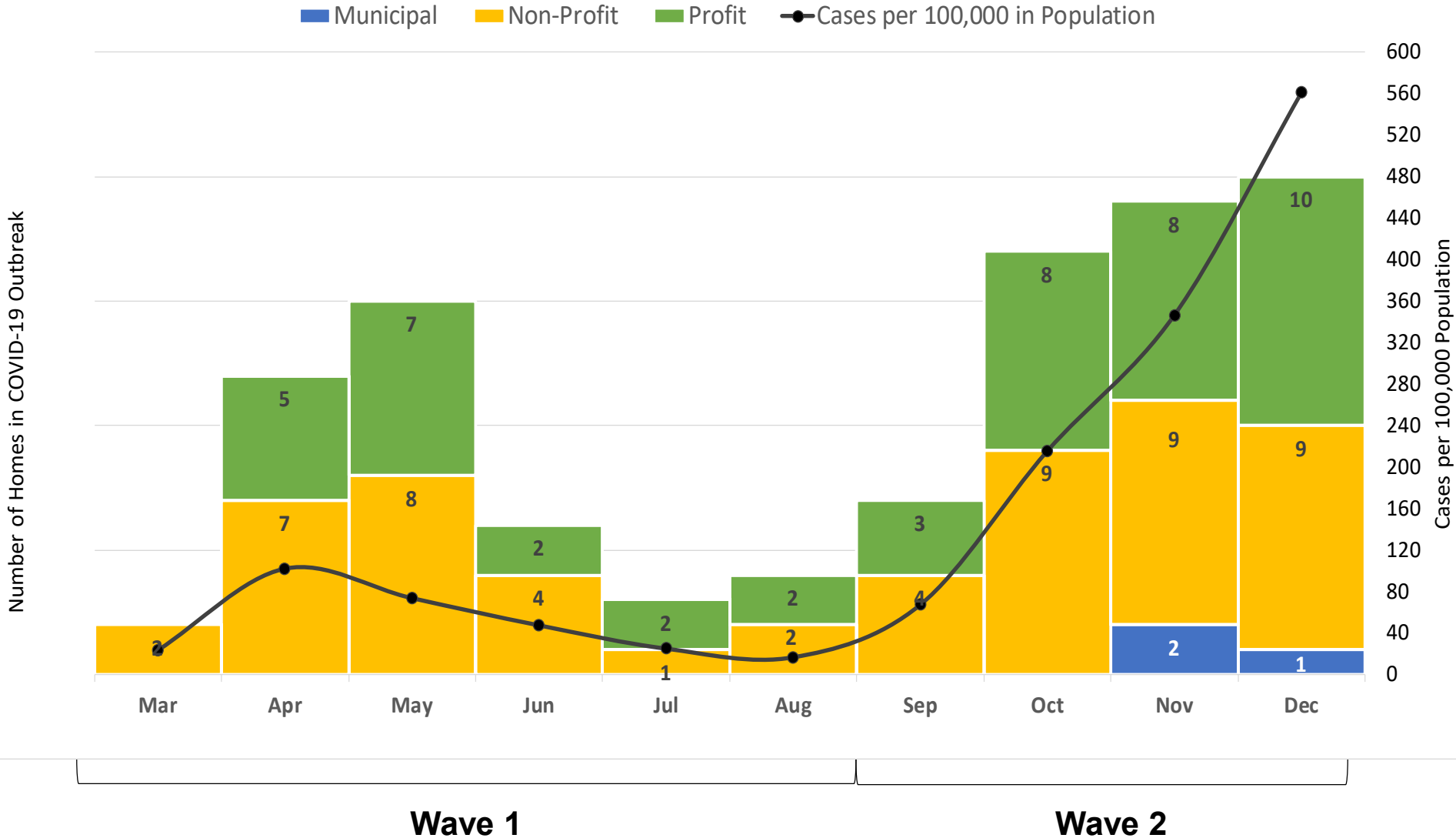
- Responses from 100 front-line staff and management

# LONG-TERM CARE IN YORK REGION

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- **28 LTC homes in York Region:**
  - 2 operated by York Region
  - 14 operated by for-profit organizations
  - 12 operated by non-profit organizations
- Ministry of Long-Term Care and Local Health Integration Networks/Ontario Health responsible for the LTC home system
- Waitlists are very long and demand is projected to continue outpacing supply

# OUTBREAKS IN YORK REGION LTC HOMES COMPARED TO CASES IN TOTAL YORK REGION POPULATION



**Wave 1**

**Wave 2**

Source: COVID-19 in York Region Interactive Dashboard

# HOMES SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed almost every aspect of living and working in the Region's Homes.

- Constant need to remain vigilant and alert
- Staff are overworked, anxious and exhausted
- Social, emotional and mental well-being impacts on residents and staff
- New operational and physical infrastructure requirements to protect residents and staff



# OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

# AREAS FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION

- 1. COVID-19 Testing and Outbreak Management**
- 2. Staffing**
3. Education and Training
- 4. Funding**
5. Capital Funding – Physical Buildings
6. Technology and Equipment
7. Central Local Health Integration Network Admissions
8. Food and Nutrition Services
9. Oversight
10. Legislative Reforms
- 11. Partnerships for Integrating LTC into Health Care System**

# PROVIDE FUNDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES FOR OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT AND TESTING

## YORK REGION EXPERIENCE

- Regular testing and managing outbreaks requires significant resources
- Experiencing outbreak highlighted need for immediate access to staffing and proactive partnerships
- COVID-19 will be part of LTC future even post vaccine

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide funding and human resources for outbreak management procedures
- Formalize key partnerships before an outbreak occurs
- Continue mandatory testing of staff and provide access to test results

# INVEST IN STAFFING TO BUILD EXCELLENCE IN LONG-TERM CARE WORKFORCE

## YORK REGION EXPERIENCE

- COVID-19 exacerbated existing staffing challenges
- Infection risk from staff working multiple jobs
- Staffing levels not keeping pace with residents' complex care needs

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop LTC Health Human Resources Strategy
- Provide funding for full-time employment
- Legislate and fund four hours of nursing and personal care per resident per day

# RELIEVE MUNICIPALITIES OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCREASING HEALTH CARE COSTS

## YORK REGION EXPERIENCE

- Insufficient provincial funding provided pre-COVID
- Emergency COVID-19 funding also insufficient
- Region relies on property tax to fill the gap in provincial funding
- Funding arrangement is unsustainable

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide adequate, sustainable funding that reflects true costs, relieving municipalities of increasing health care costs

# STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS TO INTEGRATE LONG-TERM CARE INTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

## YORK REGION EXPERIENCE

- Leveraged partnerships with Ontario Health Teams for support and advice
- National oversight for long-term care needed
- Action on Ontario Seniors Strategy required

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include LTC homes in governance structure of every OHT
- Consider national standards for LTC sector using model of Canada Health Act
- Develop and implement Ontario Seniors Strategy

# SYSTEM CHANGES ARE NEEDED IN LONG-TERM CARE

- If the Province acts on our recommendations, the result will be:
  - Improved quality of life and care for residents
  - Better ability to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks
  - Strong long-term care workforce
  - Sustainable funding that reflects the true costs of operating long-term care homes
  - Improved support for seniors across continuum of care

# RECOMMENDATION

1. Council approve Attachment 1 as York Region's submission to the Ontario Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission
2. The Regional Clerk circulate Attachment 1 to the local municipalities, York Region MPPs and MPs, the Local Health Integration Networks, Ontario Health Teams in York Region, Ontario Health Central Zone, AdvantAge Ontario, Ontario Long-Term Care Association, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario