

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services
May 5, 2022

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Long-Term Care Transformation: Second Draft National Standard

1. Recommendations

1. Council, in its role as Committee of Management for York Region’s long-term care homes, Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre, endorse staff feedback on draft national standards for the operations and infection, prevention and control of long-term care homes, provided in Attachment 1, submitted to the Canadian Standards Association Group on April 11, 2022
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities, York Region Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament, Minister of Long-Term Care, Minister of Health, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, Ontario Health Central Region, Home and Community Care Support Services Central, Ontario Health Teams in York Region, AdvantAge Ontario, Ontario Long-Term Care Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

2. Summary

The federal government made a commitment in [2020](#) (Throne Speech) to “take any action it can to support seniors.” In response, the Standards Council of Canada, Health Standards Organization, and the Canadian Standards Association Group agreed to align to develop two new complementary national standards for long-term care that “would be shaped by the needs and voices of Canada’s long-term care home residents, workforce, local communities, as well as broader members of the public: 1) [CAN/HSO 21001:2022](#) Long-Term Care Services standard, and 2) [CSA Z8004: Operation and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-term Care Homes](#) (see Analysis section for more details on these organizations). In [April 2022](#), Council was provided with the Region’s submission on the first of the two draft national standards ([CAN/HSO 21001:2022](#) Long-Term Care Services standard). This report provides Council with a report on the second of the two national standards.

Key Points:

- The Canadian Standards Association Group released a draft national standard for long-term care ([CSA Z8004: Operation and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-term Care Homes](#)) on February 10, 2022, with feedback due by April 11, 2022

- Obtaining Council's endorsement of the Region's submission (Attachment 1) on the draft national standard prior to their submission was not possible due to the deadlines for feedback. The Canadian Standards Association Group could not accept additional commentary after the closing date

3. Background

York Region operates two of the 29 Long-Term Care Homes in the Region

York Region operates two long-term care homes, Maple Health Centre and Newmarket Health Centre, with a total of 232 beds (5.7% beds).

Table 1
Long-Term Care Homes Operated in York Region

Operator Type	Number of Homes	Approximate Number of Beds*
Private	14	1,701
Not-For-Profit	13	2,108
Municipal	2	232
Total	29	4,041

* Includes 320 new beds at Mon Sheong ([Stouffville 1](#)) completed in September 2021

York Region has been influential in advocating for legislative and regulatory changes in the long-term care sector at both provincial and federal levels

The long-term care sector is undergoing a significant period of transformation in response to longstanding challenges and issues magnified by the COVID-19 Pandemic. A report to Council [April 2022](#) provided a summary of this work to date.

Standards for the Operations and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-Term Care Homes is the second of two draft National Standards issued

The Standards Council of Canada accredits standards development organizations and coordinates Canada's input in international standardization work. Both the Health Standards Organization (described in the [April 2022](#) report to Council) and the [Canadian Standards Association](#) Group are accredited as Standards Development Organizations with the Standards Council of Canada.

The Health Standards Organization released the first of two draft national standards for long-term care ([CAN/HSO 21001:2022](#) Long-Term Care Services) on January 28, 2022. The Region responded to this on by March 27, 2022 (April 2022 [Attachment 2](#)).

On February 10, 2022, the Canadian Standards Association Group issued the second of the two national standards ([CSA Z8004: Operation and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-term Care Homes](#)). The new standard provides over 500 recommendations for the safe operation and infection prevention and control of long-term care homes.

CSA Z8004 provides guidance on safe operating practices, design, and infection prevention and control in long-term care homes while incorporating a people centred perspective. The Standard takes into consideration what is required during normal, day to day circumstances, as well as in the occurrence of catastrophic events such as epidemics, and pandemics. CSA Z8004 does not cover administrative topics such as pricing, insurance or reimbursement nor does it address matters related to medical practice, professional obligations, resident care, and services (such as bathing frequency, feeding and assistive measures, quality indicators for care, dementia and age friendly care).

4. Analysis

Draft National Standards for the Operations and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-Term Care Homes broadly align with existing accreditation standards but need funding and Provincial support ahead of implementation

Our Homes are accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. The new draft National Standard developed by the Canadian Standards Association Group's references the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation 2021 Aging Services Manual. As the Region's Homes are [accredited](#) with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, they are well positioned to meet these National Standards if they become a mandatory requirement.

The draft national standards prepared by these two organizations are not federally or provincially legislated at this time and there is no immediate impact on the operations of our long-term care Homes or members of the Committee of Management (Regional Council). Implementing either or both national standards would require additional provincial support and funding.

Staff gathered feedback through internal consultations with staff at the Homes and comments received from York Region Public Health. Sector organizations like the Ontario Long-Term Care Association and [AdvantAge Ontario](#) also made submissions. The Association of Municipalities Ontario wrote to both the provincial and federal governments regarding the implementation of these standards. Staff also provided input into the submissions made by sector organizations. The Region's submission (Attachment 1) was generally supportive of the standards and made the following key suggestions:

- Implementing enhanced infection, prevention and control standards requires Homes to work more closely with their local public health units
- An integrated health care system is required to support the core principles that residents and families are partners in care

- Establishing policies and procedures to create an operating environment that focuses on the people-centred perspective, requires additional funding and resources
- Complying with these standards would require the Province to update to the [Long-Term Care Home Design Manual 2015](#) (such as resident bathrooms being 3-piece not 2-piece, having more dedicated hand hygiene sinks and a café style laundromat) and would require substantial funding to retrofit existing Homes

Due to timing, it was not possible to bring our response to York Regional Council for endorsement prior to submission and the Canadian Standards Association Group advised staff that they could not accept any additional commentary from Council following the closing date of April 11, 2022.

5. Financial

The national standards are not federally or provincially legislated for Ontario at this time. If this changes, there may be an impact on the capital and operating budgets of the Homes. The Region's two long-term care homes are funded through a combination of fees and services**, provincial subsidy and net tax levy. The provincial subsidy includes a [quality attainment premium](#) that both Homes receive (approximately \$30,500 per annum in total for both Homes) by achieving and maintaining accreditation ([2020 Long-Term Care and Seniors Community Program Annual Performance Updates](#)).

In 2020, the net tax levy supported 44.6%* of the operating costs of the Region's two long-term care Homes.

Table 2
2020 Long-Term Care Operating Costs

Operating Costs*	\$ Million	% of Total Revenue
Fees and Subsidies**	\$5.3	13.9%
Provincial Subsidy	\$15.7	41.4%
York Region Net Tax Levy	\$16.9	44.6%
Total	\$37.9	100%

*2020 values exclude COVID-19 expenses/revenues. The Region recognized \$7.2M in 2020 extraordinary COVID-19 expenses that were 100% funded by the Province.

** Fees and services include resident contributions and other sources of revenues, such as donations

6. Local Impact

There is no local impact

7. Conclusion

Staff will continue to monitor how the federal standards or changes to accreditation may influence the legislative and regulatory landscape of long-term care and report back to Council as appropriate.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, General Manager at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

April 14, 2022
Attachment (1)
eDOCS # 13722071