



2023 Long-Term Care and Seniors Community Programs Annual Performance Updates

Presented to
York Regional Council

Presented by
Chris Spearen, General Manager (A),
Paramedic and Seniors Services

Presented on
September 5, 2024



Agenda



**Municipal
Context**

**Performance
Updates**

**Actions Taken
and Next Steps**

1. Municipal Context

Newmarket Health Centre

132 beds



Maple Health Centre

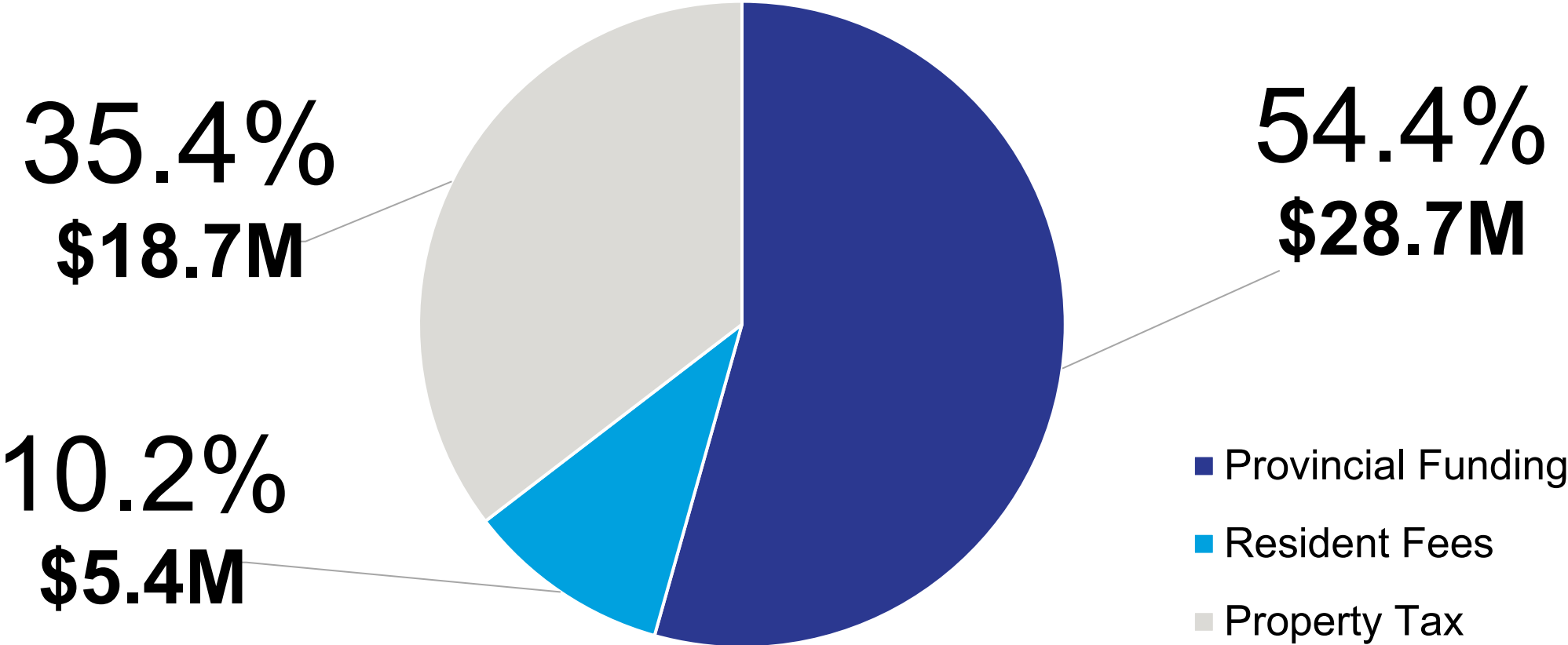
100 beds



Legislated requirement to operate a home • Highly regulated environment • Financial and reputational risks

1. Municipal Context

2023 Operating Revenues



2. Performance Update: Strengths

Key Strengths

- Three-year re-accreditation
- 99% rate the Home as good or better
- Increased number of full-time positions
- Reduced use of agency staff and overtime
- Provincial recognition for improvements in care



2. Performance Update: Challenges

Key Challenges

- Staffing the Homes within a Health Human Resource crisis
- Limited economies of scale
- Lack of design efficiencies
- Limited ways to generate revenue
- Without provincial changes to long-term care funding formula, property tax subsidy will continue to be needed



3. Actions Taken: Advocacy

- Collaborative advocacy with sector groups
- Influenced policy and decision-making at provincial and federal levels
- May 2024, advocated to Province for:
 - Sustainable and multi-year funding
 - Consideration of resident's ability to pay
 - Municipal flexibility



Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO

May 20, 2024

York Region Members of Provincial Parliament

Dear York Region Member of Provincial Parliament,

RE: Support for Municipal Operations of Long-Term Care Homes

I am pleased to share a report on *Municipal Operation of Long-Term Care Homes* which accompanies this letter.

The Regional Municipality of York appreciates the ongoing support and funding commitments from the Ontario Government to support transformation of the long term care sector and create a safe environment for long term care residents.

Long-Term Care homes' compliance with the *Firing Long-Term Care Act* and standards require further funding to support full costs of operating municipal long-term care homes, which includes essentials met by property taxes of \$19.6 million in 2023. Additional provincial funding will assist the efficient operation of the Region's two long-term care homes (Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre (the Homes)) in compliance with laws to protect residents.

Long-term care homes now operate similarly to health care facilities. Although health care is a provincial responsibility, the *Firing Long-Term Care Act* requires long-term care homes to provide a level of care and services to residents that is usually provided by hospitals, such as wound care and pain management. The full cost of operating the Homes, including staff expenses to meet required care hours, has been subsidized by property taxes, totaling \$19.4 million annually (five year average 2019-2023). This amount is equivalent to 1.6% of the Region's 2023 net budget. The Region anticipates this unmet funding gap will grow to \$22.9 million by 2026 and put further pressure on property taxes to cover rising costs of operating and maintaining these Homes. Additionally, five over 75% of gross operating costs of operating and maintaining these Homes. Additionally, long-term care staffing expenses to grow to meet legislated hours of care targets and achieve compliance with legislation.

With respect to the choice of municipalities to operate a long term care home, there is an urgent need for research and discussion on better ways to fund long term care for seniors. This involves considering the balance between public funding and the ability of individuals to contribute to the cost of their care. Over the past five years, revenues from resident co-payments (accommodation rates) have remained largely unchanged and account for 11% of total costs to run both homes are usually (about \$5.4 million per year). We support Ontario Long-Term Care Association's [policy](#) and [toolkit](#) recommendations to "ensure sufficient recurrent funding to ensure sufficient funding for resident accommodations and services."

The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1
Tel: 905 895 1231
email: wayne.emmerson@york.ca

Via email

York Region

JANUARY 14, 2021

3. Actions Taken: Mitigation Strategies

Augment Revenues

- Lease vacant space and offices at Newmarket Health Centre
- Leverage fundraising opportunities
- Explore new provincial funding

Operational Efficiencies

- Optimize staff schedule
- Implement organizational changes
- Implement energy conservation initiatives

SUMMARY

Next Steps

- Continue with performance improvements
- Explore ways to augment revenues
- Implement operational efficiencies
- Continue to advocate