



News Release

For immediate release

LANGUAGE MATTERS IN LONG-TERM CARE

AURORA, ON, November 12, 2019 – As the Government of Ontario works towards its commitment to build 15,000 new long-term care beds and redevelop 15,000 existing beds, Entité 4 has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the need to prioritize Francophone beds within its catchment area.

“As the government focuses on building capacity within the long-term care sector, we believe that there is an opportunity to speak specifically about expanding care for Francophones,” says Board Chair Yves Lévesque.

“We recognize there is an ongoing need for increased access to long-term care services in French for Francophone seniors and their families,” continues Mr. Lévesque. “Often, as people age, their ability to speak a second language deteriorates. Providing care in French for Ontario’s Francophone population is crucial in creating a *home*.”

“Connection and comfort aren’t the only benefits of providing linguistically appropriate care,” adds Executive Director Estelle Duchon. “Providing care in French for Francophones not only helps build a sense of home, studies have shown that communicating in the resident’s own language provides physical and mental health benefits such as reducing social isolation, rates of depression and the number of falls and hospitalizations.”

Entité 4’s *Language Matters in Long-Term Care* campaign is focused on encouraging service providers to include beds prioritized for Francophones as part of their applications for funding to create new beds and helping them better connect with the Francophone community.

An open call for applications from current and potential service providers to build new long-term care beds and redevelop existing ones was announced on October 1, 2019 by the Minister of Long-Term Care, Merilee Fullerton.

Entité 4 is mandated by the Ministry of Health to improve access to French Language Health Services. Entité 4 facilitates community engagement and provides innovative advice on planning, organizing and integrating French Language Health Services. Entité 4 works with local, regional and provincial partners, throughout the Central, Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka regions, to build and sustain health care services for Ontario’s official language minority population.

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