

# Support for seniors health services

Supporting long term and community-based care

## Policy opportunity and solutions


Protecting our vulnerable seniors and ensuring a quality of life for residents of long term care, including those living in Peel Region's five long term care homes, is a priority and requires increased investment as Peel's population continues to rapidly grow. The increasing pressures placed on the senior services sector resulting from this significant growth present challenges and opportunities for innovation. To address the challenges facing seniors in Peel, the Province should:

- Provide funding and stronger regulatory requirements and measurement to support emotion-based care and enable dementia-friendly design in long term care.
- Provide \$6 million in sustainable operational funding to support the expansion of community support services and delivery of wrap-around care at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.

## Background

With a rapidly growing seniors population in Peel and Ontario, new types of infrastructure are needed to enable aging-in-place. It is expected that by 2041, one in five residents in Peel will be over the age of 65.

After the age of 65, the chance of developing dementia doubles every five years. To meet the complex care needs of people living with dementia, it is essential that long term care homes and community-based care providers have the necessary resources to provide a specialized approach to care that is based on person-centred, integrated and emotion-based care.



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## Emotion-based care

Peel Region has been working to implement the emotion-based Butterfly model of care across its five long term care homes. This model incorporates adjustments to the long term care setting to create a home-like environment with a dementia-friendly design. It also empowers staff to know the people in their care by taking every opportunity to engage them in personal and meaningful ways.

Evaluations of these homes have demonstrated that residents become less agitated and react more positively to their social interactions with staff and the dementia-friendly home environment, which reduces the need for resource-intensive specialized units.

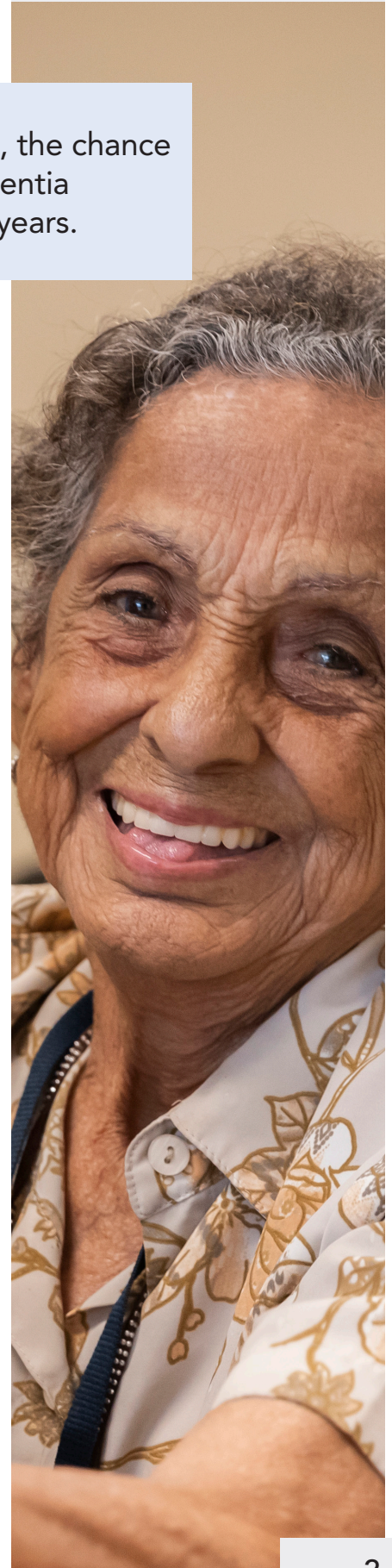
However, to help ensure the implementation of emotion-based care and dementia-friendly design in Ontario's traditional long term care homes and in the community, legislative and regulatory changes are required.

Peel Region appreciates provincial support for the Transitional Behavioural Support Unit pilot at Peel Manor and awaits designation and 2023–2024 funding. This unit will focus on meeting the needs of seniors with advanced dementia, who are experiencing expressive behaviours, through targeted clinical care. The specialized unit will also leverage the Butterfly model of care to provide person-centred care and ensure strong collaboration between the interdisciplinary team, family members, acute care and the community.

## Seniors Health and Wellness Village

The Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor is an innovative initiative that aligns with the provincial government's efforts to end hallway health care and improve long term care integration within the community. This facility includes a service hub and is part of a campus of care that will accommodate a spectrum of services to enable seniors in the community to age in place, delaying or eliminating their need for long term care and reducing demands on the health system.

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Peel-area community support services have been historically underfunded compared to provincial averages, and to date, Peel has not received any financial assistance to support the redevelopment and transformation of the Peel Manor site. The transformation of Peel Manor into a Seniors Health and Wellness Village will support the Province's vision of strengthening long term care, improving access to care at home and reducing wait lists.

To fully realize the benefits of this innovative centre for seniors, Peel Region is seeking \$6 million in sustainable operational funding toward the expansion of community support services and delivery of wrap-around, integrated care. Partnership with the Province will contribute to upstream solutions for Peel residents, while safeguarding health system capacity in Peel, and across Ontario. Through collaboration, we can better address gaps and complexities in health and social systems preventing seniors and their caregivers from successfully navigating and accessing a range of services that support this vulnerable population.

