

Protecting vulnerable seniors

Delivering high-quality care for seniors

Peel Region continues to be a leader in high-quality, person-centred care for seniors. As the population ages and care needs grow more complex, Peel is focused on innovative care models, securing sustainable funding, and strengthening cross-ministerial partnerships to support seniors both in the community and in long-term care homes. The following provincial investments have helped advance this work:

- Over \$2 million through the Community Access to Long-Term Care Pilot to provide wraparound care comparable to long-term care for community dwelling seniors and their caregivers.
- Start-up costs for the Overnight Respite program at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.
- Funding, through the Improving Dementia Care Program, to support implementation of the Butterfly Model at Vera M. Davis Centre.

Promoting high-quality of life for seniors

While Peel Region appreciates the Province of Ontario's one-time investments in seniors' services and long-term care, the growing demand, increasing complexity of care needs, and rising operational and compliance pressures require sustained, predictable provincial funding to ensure high-quality care and long-term system sustainability.

Enhanced provincial investment will help ensure LTC homes can continue delivering outcomes consistent with the requirements of the *Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2021*, including commitments to quality of care and resident well being.

Emotion-based care

Peel values emotion-based care as an essential component of high-quality dementia care. Recent provincial commitments, including a dementia care framework and proposed amendments requiring dementia care programs in all LTC homes, signal strong momentum. However, without sustained provincial investment and coordinated frameworks beyond the existing 3-year investment, it will be challenging to scale and sustain emotion-based care across Ontario.



Rising Demand

Seniors are the fastest growing population in Peel, projected to represent **20% of residents** by 2041

Fund innovative and person-centred care

Solutions to support seniors

Peel Region is a recognized leader in seniors and dementia care, partnering with the Province to advance emotion-based care and integrated services that help seniors age in place. However, there is a widening gap between demand and available funding to provide critical services for seniors. Support from the Province is needed in the following areas:

- Increased, sustained provincial investments in staffing by way of an updated funding model, including \$700,000 annually in unfunded mandated quality-focused roles is required to ensure compliance with *Fixing Long-Term Care Act* requirements.
- Expansion of emotion-based care through implementation of policy, funding, and evaluation frameworks.



Key takeaway

Provincial investments in initiatives, such as emotion-based models of care and the Community Access to Long-Term Care program support Peel Region's efforts to advance emotion-based care, but growing demand, increasing resident complexity, and rising compliance costs continue to strain resources.

With 66% of Peel's long-term care residents living with dementia, current funding does not adequately reflect care needs. Sustainable provincial funding, updates to the long-term care funding model, and ongoing support for emotion-based care to maintain quality outcomes, legislative compliance, and long-term system sustainability are required.

