Canada

Lessons Learnt from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care

Dr. Janice Keefe, PhD.
Professor and Chair, Department of Family Studies and Gerontology
Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Director, Nova Scotia Centre on Aging
Lena Isabel Jodrey Chair in Gerontology
Proportion of LTC Homes Affected by COVID-19 by Province (% in Province)

Proportion of LTC Resident Deaths Among All Deaths by Province

- RED – Residents represent more than 40% of all deaths
- PINK – 11%-40% of all deaths
- BLUE – 0 deaths

Key Lessons

Recognized that long-term care has:

• Long-standing and pervasive deficiencies
• Residents with increasing complexities and co-morbidities
• Challenges with recruiting and retaining staff

COVID-19 put a spotlight on LTC.

Percent of COVID-19 Related Deaths in Canada

• 1st Wave = about 80% were LTC Residents
• 1st + 2nd Wave = about 70% were LTC residents
• As of Nov 29, 2021 = 53% of COVID-related deaths were LTC residents

Importance of vaccines

• Residents were among 1st fully vaccinated plus receive booster
• Most provinces introduced a vaccine mandate for staff or all
• Ontario and Quebec backed down from vaccine mandates – concern over staffing shortages
Reform

The devastating impact of COVID-19 on LTC lead to calls for reform.

This began as Restoring Trust Report in June 2020 and led to a focus on standards:

National Standards for Long-Term Care

• Promote resident-centred care and balance safety with quality of life for residents

• Recognize the value of designated support persons and staff

Contact: Dr. Janice Keefe - Janice.Keefe@msvu.ca for more information