



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2017

MPP Pettapiece launches petition to save long-term care beds

(Queen's Park) – Hillside Manor, a long-term care home near Sebringville, is slated to close in a few years. If the government approves a proposal to transfer 38 of the home's 90 beds to London, it would become more difficult to access long-term care beds in our area.

"We have already lost long-term care beds," said Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece. "Losing even more beds would be devastating, and we don't have to sit back and accept it."

Today the MPP launched a petition calling on the provincial government to reject any proposal to eliminate beds in Perth-Wellington. It also calls for increased investment in local long-term care facilities to accommodate our growing number of seniors and their needs.

"If we're going to stop the loss of our long-term care beds, we need to get the government's attention. That's why we need to start signing this petition," Pettapiece explained.

The petition notes that many long-term care bed licenses are set to expire in the coming years, and homes will require significant investment to be allowed to stay open.

"This issue is larger than one facility. It concerns every community in Perth-Wellington," Pettapiece added.

Since the Hillside closure was announced, Pettapiece requested information from the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN); he spoke directly with Hillside Manor's executive director to offer support for staff and residents; he discussed the matter with senior staff members of the Minister of Health; and he wrote directly to the minister for details on the consultation process.

He has yet to see a response from the government.

In the government's 2017 provincial budget, page 38 states: "Growth in the demand for [long-term care] beds continues to outpace existing supply. The Province will undertake planning and modernize its approach to provide better services to seniors who require long-term care."

"The government knows this is a problem," Pettapiece said. "They shouldn't even consider making it worse."

Pettapiece's petition is available on his website: www.pettapiece.ca/petitions. Constituents can also pick up copies at his office, or call 1-800-461-9701 to have a petition mailed to them.

Completed petitions can be returned in their original form to Pettapiece's constituency office: 55 Lorne Avenue East, Unit 2, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6S4.

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Attached: Copy of petition

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