

Improve care for dementia patients

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Re: A revolution in dementia care is needed, Jan. 22.

There is indeed a need to “revolutionize our infrastructure” on so many fronts to offer quality of life options for persons with dementia, including on the long-term care home front.

If COVID-19 wasn't a motivating force for the Ontario government to adopt a fundamental shift in changing our long-term care homes from “institutions to homes,” then what will it take?

There are new, innovative approaches to care that are growing in Canada to enhance the lives of residents. Some include: The Butterfly approach, The Eden Alternative, and the Green House Project. These approaches include creating smaller living areas so that residents can live in a safe, warm and caring environment that looks and feels like home. In these places, staff deliver person-centred care through flexible routines and schedules that meet the residents' needs and preferences, and that provide meaningful activities, bringing comfort and joy to the residents and caregivers.

These approaches to care have proven to reduce risk of infections; decrease over-medication of residents; and minimize staff sick leave and turnover.

CARP Ottawa is working to influence change in longterm care from “institutions to homes” so that we never again have to witness the horror of those early days of COVID devastation.

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