

**We welcome the use of this letter to write to the ministers**

**Premier Legault, Minister of Health Christian Dubé, Minister for Health and Seniors Sonia Bélanger,**

We acknowledge and welcome the increased funding for Elder Care in the Health and Social System in your government's announced budget.

The crucial question remains: "Will the promised government funding be sufficient to implement the structural changes needed to establish a holistic approach to elder care?"

Within the first year of the pandemic, Quebec registered over 5,000 deaths in its long-term care network. Underfunding and ageism have created a system that is neglectful and abusive, a system that set the conditions for these deaths and the suffering of so many more.

The causes, as well as recommendations for systemic and urgent change of the long-term care network in Quebec, were outlined in the report "Ensemble vers la bientraitance," published by Handicap Vie Dignité in 2018, well before the pandemic.

Reports since the pandemic have verified well-known facts: Too many seniors are placed in ill-equipped, understaffed and antiquated facilities. Support staff receive a minimum training with most having to work in several long-term care facilities in order to make a living income.

**Will the system only change cosmetically, or will there be concrete actions and oversight to overhaul it?**

DO NOT create another committee to study the situation; this has been done repeatedly over the years, with recommendations yet to be implemented.

DO NOT establish more institutional requirements at the expense of the rights of the users of long-term care: seniors, caregivers-family members, préposés aux bénéficiaires (paid), staff and administrators.

WE NEED ACTIONS THAT CHANGE THE PHILOSOPHY OF OUR LONG-TERM CARE FOR ELDERS.

WE NEED ACTIONS THAT PREVENT MISTREATMENT AND ABUSE BY RESPECTING ALL USERS, ELDERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS.

PREMIER LEGAULT, WE NEED TO CREATE CARING COMMUNITIES!

HEAR US AND ACT! WE ARE OLD ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE OUR RIGHTS AND WE WILL BE HEARD!

<https://www.premier-ministre.gouv.qc.ca/premier-ministre/joindre-pm/courriel/index-en.asp>

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We knit and crochet towards World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, 2023

*To*

Remember our loved ones and caregivers who died in long-term care facilities

We knit and crochet towards World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, 2023

*For*

The survivors

**We honour the dead by taking action NOW to care for the living.**