

December 22, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Open Letter to Premier Ford on the COVID-19 outbreak at The Village of St. Clair

I write to you today regarding an urgent matter at The Village of St. Clair nursing home in Windsor, Ontario.

This home is represented by Unifor Local 2458. We are receiving desperate pleas from our members on the front line who are quite literally in tears over their inability to meet the needs of their residents. There are simply not enough staff available to provide the necessary care. As of today, they have 97 active COVID-19 cases among residents and 50 among staff. Nine residents have died.

Many of us hoped that we would be better prepared for the second wave, but that is simply not the case. Today we are not interested in laying blame. Today we are asking your government to immediately take over responsibility of this home's operation, and ensure they have adequate front-line staff.

Quite simply, this has become a matter of life and death. The employer's attempt to use agency workers as replacements is not working. There have been cases where there is one PSW assigned to care for over thirty residents. When you add to the fact that many of these residents are sick with COVID-19, you can only imagine the horrors that are taking place.

We implore you to act immediately and to use whatever resources are available to you, including the Armed Forces or the Red Cross.

I remain available to discuss this situation and respectfully request an urgent response.

Sincerely,



Jerry Dias
National President

cc. The Honourable Minister Fullerton, The Honourable Minister Elliott, Lisa Gretzky, LTC Commission, Tullio DiPonti, Chris Taylor, Katha Fortier

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