

## Province Releases New Action Plan for Seniors

Yesterday, the Ontario government released [\*Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors\*](#). The plan includes commitments to a range of measures intended to support seniors including enhancing municipal services. Ontario will be investing \$155 million over three years through the action plan. This will include improving long-term care homes, supporting age-friendly communities, and providing additional services to seniors.

It is welcome news to see new government investments in seniors' services and planning initiatives. AMO has advocated for: increased hours of care in long-term care homes; enhancing culturally appropriate practices; engaging in a capacity review to determine the need for more long-term care beds; better transportation options in rural and northern areas; and, expansion of age-friendly programs that support municipal governments to provide services to seniors.

A full set of recommendations can be found in AMO's Health Task Force policy paper, [\*Strengthening Age-Friendly Communities and Seniors' Services for 21st Century Ontario: A New Conversation about the Municipal Role\*](#).

Of significant interest to municipal government, the Province has committed to:

- expanding 30,000 new long-term care beds over the next decade with 5,000 created over the next four years;
- providing 15 million more hours of care in long-term care homes for nursing, personal support, and therapeutic care;
- facilitating greater access to culturally appropriate practices in long-term care homes and in-home supports;
- providing specialized training in behavioural supports and in palliative and end-of-life care;
- expanding the Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant for municipal governments;
- improving community transportation for seniors to connect them with services and support, particularly in Northern Ontario; and
- reconfirming the commitment to expand 40 more Seniors Active Living Centres across the province (formerly known as Elderly Persons Centres). Municipal governments and community agencies can [apply](#) for funding through Grants Ontario.

Other measures in the plan are intended to:

- support seniors at all stages of their life;

- support seniors to live independently in their communities;
- support seniors requiring enhanced supports at home and in their communities;
- support seniors living independently in the community; and,
- support seniors who require intensive supports.

For more information, see the Ontario government's [news release](#) or view the full [action plan](#).