

INSTITUTIONALIZATION IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Ontario has the highest rate of institutionalization in Canada, and Canada has one of the highest rates of institutionalization in the developed world.

The majority of residents are women.
And they are not safe.



Feminism

- o Feminist theory explores classic systems of oppression and what impact these have on women.
- o It also examines “how people interact within systems and possibly offer solutions to confront and eradicate oppressive systems and structures”

Reference: Arinder, J. (n.d.). Feminist theory. *Washington State University*.
<https://opentext.wsu.edu/theoreticalmodelsforteachingandresearch/chapter/feminist-theory/>

The Numbers



- o “....almost three-quarters of residents of collective dwellings aged 85 and older were women, increasing to 85% among centenarians” (StatsCan April 27, 2022) <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-X/2021004/98-200-X2021004-eng.cfm>
- o “More than 59% of Ontario’s LTC homes are currently owned and operated by the private sector; the largest five LTCF companies control 23.8% of beds within the province.” (Lem et al, n.d.)
- o Non-profits are also contracting out management of their facilities to companies with sketchy track records, like UniversalCare.

References:

<https://www.uc.utoronto.ca/true-cost-efficiency-long-term-care-system>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/12/17/company-chosen-by-ontario-to-manage-long-term-care-home-with-27-covid-deaths-also-runs-facilities-cited-for-multiple-rule-violations.html>

What Is An Institution?

Sociologist Erving Goffman defined total institutions decades ago as: “a place of work and residence where a great number of similarly situated people, cut off from the wider community for a considerable time, lead an enclosed, formally administered life together. Within a total institution, the basic needs of an entire bloc of people are under bureaucratic control.....[and] handled in an impersonal and bureaucratic manner. Prisons serve as a clear example, providing we appreciate that what is prison-like about prisons is found in institutions whose members have broken no laws”

Reference: Goffman, E. (1961). Asylums. Pg. xxi. Doubleday & Co.

<https://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=be3vAQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR1&dq=Asylums+Erving+Goffman&ots=JpLRJJXKuB&sig=DME5NDhF8xDuWJaycsdGgyRBHgs#v=onepage&q=Asylums%20Erving%20Goffman&f=false>



Who Resides in Institutions?

The only groups for whom institutions are still considered appropriate are elders and prisoners.

Institutions for orphaned children, for people with disabilities, for people with mental health conditions, residential schools for Indigenous people – all have been closed because they have been found to be dangerous, and in some cases – deadly.

Reference: <https://www.remembereveryname.ca/>



Who Resides in Institutions?

- o In Canada, among nursing care residents, 64.7% were female and 34.9% were male.
- o Ontario's 642 facilities accounted for 42.4% of nursing care beds in Canada.
- o The province with the second largest proportion of nursing care beds, Quebec, had 489 nursing care facilities, accounting for 18.7% of Canada's total nursing care beds.
- o The remaining provinces and territories had 967 facilities accounting for 38.9% of care beds.
- o “In Canada, LTC residents accounted for 3% of all COVID-19 cases and 43% of COVID-19 deaths.”

Reference: Statistics Canada, September 16, 2021 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210916/dq210916c-eng.htm> and CIHI, 2021 <https://www.cihi.ca/en/covid-19-resources/impact-of-covid-19-on-canadas-health-care-systems/long-term-care>



The Oppressive Nature of Ontario's Long-Term Care Institutions

- o **Who owns and operates long-term care facilities?** Predominantly wealthy, White males
- o **Who lives in long-term care facilities?** Predominantly older women of all races and backgrounds
- o **Who works in long-term care facilities?** Predominantly women from visible minority and immigrant groups

Most long-term care facilities are financialized ventures operated as Real Estate Investment Trusts, that produce considerable profits for shareholders and senior managers



A Classic System of Exploitation

- o 2 former Ontario Premiers and 1 former Deputy Premier have been on the Boards of long-term care companies
- o Mike Harris – Chartwell, William Davis – Revera, Ernie Eves – CPL Reit (Central Park Lodges – joined the Board a month after leaving his post as Finance Minister)
- o **Dr. Michael Guerriere** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Extendicare;
- o **Thomas Wellner** is President and CEO of Revera;
- o **Keith McIntosh** is President of Southbridge Care Homes Inc. (Director of Operations is Richard Franzke);
- o **Ben Friedman** is the owner of Rykka Care Centres,

Many of these companies' facilities had to be taken over by hospitals on order of Medical Officers of Health and in some cases, by the military, which wrote a report concerning the horrendous conditions found in these facilities.



References

References:

Chartwell. (May 20, 2022). Chartwell Retirement Residences announces the election of directors and other voting results as well as the appointment of a new chair and new committee compositions. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/chartwell-retirement-residences-announces-the-election-of-directors-and-other-voting-results-as-well-as-the-appointment-of-a-new-chair-and-new-committee-compositions-878319274.html>

Ontario Health Coalition. (December 6, 2021). Ford government's response on long-term care is a travesty: "New" LTC bill to be pushed through imminently. <https://financialpost.com/globe-newswire/ontario-health-coalition-statement-ford-governments-response-on-long-term-care-is-a-travesty-new-ltc-bill-to-be-pushed-through-imminently>

Revera. (March 21, 2019). Revera pays tribute to its Board Chair Emeritus, The Hon. William G. Davis. <https://cdn.reveraliving.com/-/media/files/news-releases/2019/mar-21-2019reverapaytributetothehonourablewilliamgd.pdf?rev=cae184b8958c46d1b29a2c5cfb6f01d7&hash=117C40B9C0283163DCA52A69F26AB0B4>

A Classic System of Exploitation



- o Residents, predominantly women, pay between \$2280.00 and \$2700.00 a month for essentially substandard care delivered in assembly-line fashion
- o Predominantly female staff (PSW's) are paid between \$21 and \$25 an hour for providing this assembly line care
- o Long-term care facilities are often short staffed
- o "Chartwell CEO Vlad Volodarski made \$2.10-million in 2021, up from \$1.87-million in 2020" (Milstead, 2022).
- o Executive bonuses increased as residents, predominantly women, lay dying in the thousands in long-term care facilities during the pandemic.

References:

Milstead, D. (May 15, 2022). Executive bonuses at long-term care companies increased during the first full year of the pandemic. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-canadian-long-term-care-executive-bonus/>

Ontario Government. (July 1, 2019). Long-term care accommodation costs and subsidy. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-paying-long-term-care>

Features of Long-Term Care Institutions in Ontario

- o Most of Ontario's LTCFs are operated for-profit.
- o Inspections are ineffective and rarely result in sanctions against facilities that are repeat offenders.
- o The Director of the Inspection Branch is male. Many of the inspectors are women.
- o Family members, most often women, who objected to poor care have been subjected to trespass notices by owners.
- o The Ontario government raised the bar for lawsuits against these facilities by the families of the dead.
- o Police have not investigated alleged criminal acts in them.
- o Facilities are regularly severely short-staffed and residents are fed on less than \$9 per day.
- o Bill 7 now forces people into them from hospital without their consent 70 - 100 km from their home communities, also transferring their health information without consent

References

- o References: Welsh, M., McLean, J. (March 10, 2017). Ontario nursing homes feed seniors on \$8.33 a day.
<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/03/10/ontario-nursing-homes-feed-seniors-on-833-a-day.html>
- o McKenzie-Sutter, H. (January 6, 2022). Ontario long-term care sees staff absences of 20% to 30% amid COVID outbreaks
<https://globalnews.ca/news/8492713/ontario-long-term-care-staff-absences-covid/>
- o Payne, E. (July 12, 2017). No trespass orders given to family members after complaining about Ottawa long-term care home.
<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/no-trespass-orders-given-to-family-members-after-complaining-about-ottawa-long-term-care-home>
- o Russell et al. (February 25, 2021). Ontario 'completely ignored and bulldozed' in long-term care: former inspector
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7816011/ontario-long-term-care-inspections-covid-19/>