

## Focus Statement 2021

### Achievements in 2020

- Celebrated the acceptance of the **Time to Care Act** in December 2020 after 12 years of focused advocacy and petitions. Immediately began to advocate to enact this Standard of Care for the budget year 2021 instead of planned stepped implementation where the average of four hours of care per resident will not be achieved until 2024-2025.
- Pivoted quarterly Regional Meetings to a virtual format with the aim to maintain the networking of family councils in the region and to share information and successful initiatives to improve the life of residents. With attendance between 40 and 60 participants, the team has attracted attention of family councils adjacent to our region interested in joining the meetings to share ideas and cope with anxiety during extraordinary changes to every ones' lives
- Emailed updates to Members of Provincial Parliament in the region to advocate on behalf of local family councils on issues in LTC such as the PSW staffing crisis, communication tips for family to residents during total lockdowns to support mental health and reduce loneliness, the crucial need for essential care giver access to residents and to timely COVID 19 testing and vaccinations.
- Networked with other provincial family council networks and advocacy groups to align messaging to the LTC Minister and LTC Commission.
- Participated in four press releases and rallies with Ontario Health Coalition to promote needed changes in LTC.
- Followed media reports closely to stay aligned to issues and responded to media interviews to ensure the voice of families of residents in LTC was heard. At least three in depth articles were published in local papers.
- Initiated a Newsletter to provide another vehicle to share information and encourage the connection of family councils within our network during the growing pandemic.
- Accepted submissions to participate in three research studies that focus on the of family in Long Term Care.
- Accepted Seneca College, Gerontological Student for "Field Placement" for two terms to increase public and professional understanding of the family role in LTC.

### Focus for 2021

- Build our network and continue to reach out to homes, especially where regular family council meetings are a challenge.
- Push for the Enactment of the *Time to Care Act* to a Standard of Care of four hours in April 2021.
- Advocate for funding for sick pay for PSWs during pandemic
- Support the implementation of the recruitment and retention staffing initiatives as outlined in LTC Commission immediately.
- Support the requirement for IPAC leadership in each LTC home
- the adoption of National Standards of Care
- Advocate for the revision and reestablishment of effective oversight / inspection program with consequences for homes that fail to meet standards
- Continue to press for the establishment of Personal Support Workers (PSW) registration and certification.