

May 15, 2020

Via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to respectfully urge you and your government to agree to the proposal from the Official Opposition to hold a public inquiry into the long-term care system in Ontario.

It is the strongly held belief of my union – including our members who have experienced first-hand the failings of the system, who have comforted dying residents in their final moments and who have witnessed the suffering of families that have lost loved ones – that the growing demand for a public inquiry could not be more justified.

As you well know Premier, more than 1,300 residents of long-term care and retirements homes have died during the pandemic and thousands more have been infected with COVID-19. Several workers also have died on the job and hundreds, if not thousands, will have been infected before this crisis ends.

In the past, public inquiries have been held – legitimately so – into many crises and controversies in our province and our country that pale in comparison to the devastating human toll that Ontario's long-term care crisis has wreaked.

Premier, nothing short of a non-partisan, public inquiry into all aspects of Ontario's long-term care system will restore public confidence in the system.

Nothing short of a public inquiry will bring meaningful, lasting improvements to the level of care and safety, indeed the very quality of life, that are deserved by all residents in Ontario's long-term care system.

Nothing short of a public inquiry will allow for true healing to begin for those who have lost loved ones and who, at the very least, are owed a sense of knowing their loss, their pain and grief were not in vain.

Premier, I urge you and your government to demonstrate your commitment to begin the healing process and to restore public confidence in the long-term care system, by establishing a public inquiry in the most-timely manner possible.

Sincerely,

Marty Warren
Ontario Director,
United Steelworkers