

**NOTICE of
2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Time: 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Location: SPRINT Senior Care, Jane Moore Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 140 Merton Street, Toronto

Business Meeting will consider:

- Minutes of November 24, 2016 AGM
- Reports from the Chair and Treasurer
- Proposed amendments to update CW's By-Law #1, including new membership criteria (copies are available upon request)
- Election of the Board of Directors

Registration is requested as space is limited. Register by e-mailing Care Watch at info@carewatchontario.com and enter "AGM registration" in the Subject Line.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEB SITE

We have been hard at work developing a new website that is easier to read, is tablet- and smartphone-friendly, and is organized to make it easier to find what you're looking for. Following our mission to monitor the home care system and community services **across Ontario** and provide analysis and feedback (read our full [Mission, Vision and Values](#)), the main content of our new site comprises materials we've developed addressing key issues affecting Ontario's seniors.

We hope you find it a valuable resource to stay informed. Find us at www.carewatchontario.com

SENIORS' VOTES COUNT!

Elections Canada reports that both federally, and in each province and territory, voter turnout is highest in the 65-74 age group. It declines after 74, but still remains higher than among eligible voters under age 64. As the proportion of seniors in the population increases, seniors' votes will make up an increasing share of the total votes cast.

2018 is a "double election" year in Ontario. Elections will be held at both the provincial and municipal levels, and *seniors can make a difference.*

Care Watch plans to participate. What about you?

The Ontario government must hold an election by **June 7, 2018**. In the next few months, the political parties will be determining their platforms and arranging nomination meetings to identify candidates to carry their message. *How will your local candidates support your ability to age safely in your home and community for as long as possible?*

Care Watch will be rolling out its provincial election strategy in January 2018

Municipal elections are scheduled for **October 22, 2018**. Municipal elections are also important to seniors because municipal governments oversee or provide a wide range of services that affect peoples' ability to continue to live safely in their homes and communities as long as possible.

CW will build on its provincial election strategy to focus advocacy in the municipal election.

New home care agency – Self-Directed Personal Support Services Ontario (SDPSSO)

See more information on our web site at:
www.carewatchontario.com

Care Watch is pleased to welcome **Dave Sider** as our new part-time administrative coordinator.

Support Us: We welcome donations to support our advocacy work. Please send cheques payable to Care Watch to: Care Watch, 140 Merton St., 2nd floor, Toronto ON M4S 1A1. Care Watch cannot issue tax receipts.

CARE WATCH REAFFIRMS ITS ADVOCACY FOCUS:

Over the last year, the Care Watch Board has been considering its mandate and legacy. It established a Futures Task Group to review options and, in June 2017, reaffirmed its unique mandate to **advocate for in-home and community support services for Ontario's seniors**. Care Watch's objective is to foster establishment of an equitable home and community support services policy based on the *Canada Health Act's* principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility. Importantly, the *Canada Health Act* is supported by a funding commitment that originates in the tax system and includes earmarked or designated funding that is guaranteed against leakage to the acute care service system.

More specifically, Care Watch will advocate for the establishment of a standard **Basket of Services** to which all seniors who need assistance will have access, regardless of where they live across Ontario.

Some 2017 Activities:

Over the last few months, Care Watch has made several submissions to both the Ontario and Toronto governments on issues respecting home care and community support services:

- In late 2016, Care Watch made submissions to Ontario's Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly regarding *Bill 41- the Patients First Act*. Care Watch analysed the then-proposed legislation from the perspective of seniors, and advocated for home and community services that are seamlessly integrated, well-coordinated, securely funded, and led by non-profit, community-based agencies. Care Watch also proposed that consideration of the determinants of health be considered in planning regional health services and in assessing client needs and care plans; that enforceable provincial service standards, including service quality standards, be established, along with provision of adequate resources for implementation; and that portability of services across LHIN jurisdictions to ensure accessibility be required.
- In January 2017, Care Watch wrote to both federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and provincial Health Minister Eric Hoskins to urge increased efforts to develop and implement a *national home and community care framework* to foster equitable and accessible services that facilitate independence at home and in their community for ageing Canadians. Unfortunately, the federal and provincial governments were unable to reach consensus and, as a result, separate funding deals were made between federal and provincial governments to provide for home and community care.
- In May 2017, Care Watch wrote to Health Minister Eric Hoskins to support inclusion and strengthening of regulations under the *Patients First Act (2016)* to ensure delivery of home and community support services by not-for-profit community agencies. Care Watch believes in investing public funds in better and increased services rather than supplementing corporate profits.
- In June 2017, Care Watch submitted several recommendations to inform the development of the *Toronto Seniors Strategy 2.0* which addressed accessible transportation; accessible and supportive housing for seniors; community health and supportive services; and a public education campaign on community supports and ageism. The TSS2.0 has not yet been finalized for City Council consideration.
- In November 2017, Care Watch also made a submission to the Standing Committee on General Governance and Health Minister Eric Hoskins respecting *Bill 160: An Act to amend, repeal and enact various Acts in the interest of strengthening quality and accountability for patients*.

In addition, Care Watch has maintained its public educational efforts, making presentations on the *Social Determinants of Health and Healthy Public Policy* (University of Toronto's Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation), and on *Unpacking Ageism* (Rehabilitation Sciences Rounds, University of Toronto).