



# *Municipality of Killarney*

March 29, 2022

## **Re: Long-term Care in Killarney**

Dear Friends,

In February, an announcement was made by the Minister of Long-term Care, Paul Calandra, that Killarney had been approved for 14 long-term care beds. At this time, what this means is that of the 30,000 beds that the Province has committed to funding, Killarney has received an allocation of 14 beds. This is a huge step towards a home being built but we want to be clear that before the project can be fully approved and go forward the Municipality has a lot of work to do.

The current model of long-term care will not work for a small community. What the Municipality of Killarney has proposed to the Province is to pilot a new model that would meet the needs of small communities like ours and could be duplicated province-wide, if not nationally. This model would include a mix of assisted living, long-term care, palliative care, and home support that will allow our citizens to age in place, remaining in the community while receiving the health services they need. This has never been done in Ontario, however there are models of care like this that have been successful in other countries, such as the Green House Project in the United States and others in Western Europe.

A local steering committee has been working on this project and at present we have been meeting with potential partners, licensed operators, health agencies and provincial leaders to fully develop the new model for small communities. There will be opportunities in the future for more local involvement and input as well through surveys, interviews and public meetings. We also recognize that for this project to be successful there is a need for a plan to train, recruit and house staff that will support the new home and these issues will be taken into consideration throughout the planning process. We want to make sure that we develop a model that will be sustainable over the long-term.

The Municipal Council is committed to moving the project forward and keeping you updated as things progress. This is a very exciting opportunity, not just for Killarney but all small communities. All eyes are on us right now and we thank you for your support as we attempt to break new ground in health care.

Warmly,

Your Municipal Council.

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