

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Interim Assistant Deputy Minister
Long Term Care Homes Division

11th Floor, 1075 Bay Street
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tel.: (416) 327-7461
Fax: (416) 327-7603

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Sous-ministre adjointe intérimaire
Division des foyers de soins de longue durée

1075, rue Bay, 11e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Téléphone: (416) 327-7461
Télécopieur: (416) 327-7603



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MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Stakeholders
Personal Support Worker Stakeholders

FROM: **Nancy Lytle**
Interim Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

RE: Notification of Amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 under
the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*

I am pleased to inform you that amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 (Regulation) under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (LTCHA) relating to personal support workers (PSWs) will come into force on January 1, 2016. The amendments relate to PSW qualifications, including grandparenting requirements and labour mobility.

Descriptions of the proposed regulatory amendments were posted to the Regulatory Registry for a 30 day posting period between October 21, 2015 and November 20, 2015. All feedback received during the public consultation period was reviewed and carefully considered in the drafting of the final proposed amendments. Minor changes were made from the plain language version of the proposed amendments that were posted for comment on the Regulatory Registry.

The approved regulatory amendments incorporate the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' 2014 new common educational standard for PSWs. Ontario's Public Community Colleges, Private Career Colleges and District School Boards have all started to implement the new common standard. The Regulation has been amended to permit long-term care (LTC) home licensees to hire PSWs who are enrolled in or have successfully completed a PSW program that meets the new common standard.


In addition, the grandparenting provisions have been updated. Individuals who were working as PSWs in a LTC home in the 12-month period prior to July 1, 2011 but who lack formal education qualifications will be required to have current PSW work experience prior to being hired by a LTC home licensee. Individuals who are enrolled in or have successfully completed a program under one of the three former educational standards will be grandparented.

The Regulation now provides labour mobility for PSWs who have a diploma or certificate granted in another jurisdiction from a program that was a minimum of 600 hours (counting both class time and practical experience time) and who have, in the opinion of the licensee, skills that are equivalent to those expected of PSWs who have completed a program under the new common educational standard. Finally, registered nurses or registered practical nurses being hired as a PSW in a LTC home will be required to have the appropriate certificate of registration with the College of Nurses of Ontario.

LTC home licensees, staff and PSW students and graduates are encouraged to review the regulatory amendments to fully understand the changes and implications. For full details, please see the Regulation as set out on e-Laws at:
<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/100079>.

I acknowledge all those who provided input on the proposed draft regulatory amendments through the public consultation process. These regulatory amendments reflect the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's continued commitment towards the delivery of safe, quality, resident-centred care. Should you have any questions about the regulatory amendments, please contact Stephanie Tousignant, Team Lead, Aging and Long-Term Care Unit at stephanie.tousignant@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Nancy Lytle

c: Sharon Lee Smith, Associate Deputy Minister, Policy and Transformation Division
Karen Simpson, Interim Director, Inspections Branch