

July 22, 2019

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton  
Ministry Long-Term Care  
Via email: [merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org](mailto:merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org)

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our 1865 members, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Long-Term Care.

Your vision and leadership will be vital as your government continues to implement its strategy to add 30,000 new beds through the addition of 15,000 new long-term care beds and the renewal of 15,000 beds. The Long-Term Care sector employs a significant number of Recreation Therapists who help residents live their lives with meaning and purpose through recreation and leisure. We recognize the priority that nursing and personal support workers have in the system, but once a person is up and dressed, then what do they do with the rest of their day? That's where Recreation Therapists play an important role. Whether it is supporting seniors to overcome boredom, loneliness and frustration, or developing strategies to support responsive behaviours, Therapeutic Recreation is integral to the lived experience of seniors within long-term care as it focuses on the strengths and well-being of individuals through a holistic approach.

Again, we extend our congratulations and best wishes to you in your new role. We look forward to working with you and your team to address the challenges in long-term care and to advance a shared vision of a long-term care system that works for Ontario's seniors.

Sincerely,



Sue Verrilli, R/TRO  
President

**About TRO:**

Established in 1999, Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO) is the professional association that represents Therapeutic Recreation practitioners in the province. Our membership of more than 1800 includes practitioners, educators and students. Our mission is to lead the TR profession through growth advocacy and innovation. We do this by offering quality membership services including professional development, information, networking, advocacy, and evidence-based research and best practices. We set the standard for excellence in the profession through our registration designations (R/TRO and R/TRO DIP).