



June 19, 2024

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope this message finds you enjoying a wonderful summer. I would like to update you on the recent developments at Villa Colombo Toronto.

MINISTRY CHANGES

Following a recent cabinet shuffle, Stan Cho has transitioned from Minister of Long-Term Care to Tourism, Culture, and Gaming. He visited Villa Colombo Toronto (VCT) in May to celebrate Nursing Week with Dr. Doris Greenspun, President of RNAO. Minister Cho praised VCT for its exceptional care and applauded VCT for its rich culture, enhancing residents' well-being. We are pleased to welcome Natalia Kusendova-Bashta as the new Minister of Long-Term Care. She is a nurse by background who served as parliamentary assistant to the ministries of health and long-term care before being elected as a Member of Provincial Parliament. A letter has been sent to her on behalf of cultural homes, including VCT, spearheaded by the Alliance Group and Advantage Ontario, advocating for:

1. Recognition of Cultural Importance in Dementia Care:

- Recognizing the essential role and profound impact of culturally sensitive care in maintaining residents' identity and overall well-being.
- Identifying the urgency of care for Ontarians with dementia who may not qualify as "crisis" cases in hospitals but require specialized long-term care.

2. Enhanced Weighting for Cultural Admission Applications:

- Ensuring that cultural considerations outweigh other factors in the admissions process for residents with linguistic limitations, dementia, or other cognitive challenges.

3. Specialized Training and Support for Staff:

- Encouraging resources and training for not-for-profit organizations catering to specific cultural groups in dementia care.

4. Promotion of Inclusive Community Engagement:

- Fostering partnerships with cultural organizations for tailored community engagement programs.
- Enabling not-for-profit cultural licensees to proactively identify community members in need of culturally appropriate care.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

VCT has received increased funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, including funding retroactive compensation related to Bill 124 and additional funds for operations. These resources will allow us to maintain our commitment to excellence.

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We are currently evaluating various **redevelopment** models to enhance our facilities. A decision has not yet been made, but we are diligently assessing both operational and capital costs.

THE FUSCO FAMILY GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop has been renamed in honour of the Fusco Family, recognizing their enduring support for Villa Colombo. All proceeds continue to benefit senior care initiatives at VCT. Please stop by and support our Villa Colombo Toronto Auxiliary, who run the gift shop. Espresso is available for sale and gift items and snacks. Crafted items by residents are now also available for sale.

NURSING AND IPAC UPDATES

Recent updates include successful resolution of past concerns, ongoing IPAC protocol improvements, and VCT's designation as part of the "OHT BPSO" by RNAO, reflecting our commitment to best practices.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Despite a recent outbreak, swiftly managed with high compliance to safety protocols and a successful vaccination campaign, VCT remains dedicated to the health and safety of residents and staff.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our residents enjoyed a vibrant array of events in May, from cultural celebrations to creative workshops.

INTOUCHLINK

Stay connected through Villa Colombo HDTV and InTouchLink. Register at www.intouchlink.com using serial number VICO-09F3-02D0-F552 to access community news, events, and updates.

FAMILY TOWN HALL

Join us for our next Family Town Hall on June 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Send questions to info@villacolombo.on.ca by 12:00 p.m. on the same day. [Click here](#) or dial +1 647 558 0588 (Webinar ID: 815 6560 8935) to participate.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Alcia
Executive Director