

Seniors can have input on government policy

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Herald Special

Redirection of Long-Term Care and Support Services in Ontario

This is the title of a Public Consultation Paper which has been published by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Citizenship in the Province of Ontario. I want to emphasize here the "Public Consultation" part of this heading.

The Government of Ontario is desirous of input from the citizens of Ontario in regard to the above topic. Since the population needing support and long term care is growing at a fairly quick pace something needs to be done to get an over-all view of what is happening, what needs to happen and what could happen.

As you can see by the authors of this document, the services are so fractured at the present time that no one knows what all is possible, and whether the services are really in place. It is the desire of the Government and, I am sure, of the general public as well, to change this situation.

The document is divided into sections, with some information on the subject in that section and then some questions which will facilitate discussion on the subject. For example, in section 2. A

Renewed Vision, the document says. The new directions presented in this paper have made the needs of consumers the most important consideration in long-term care and support services. These directions have been guided by the following principles: Primacy of the Individual, and his or her Right to Dignity, Security and Self-determination; Promotion of Racial Equity and Respect for Cultural Diversity; Importance of Family and Community; Equitable Access to Appropriate Services.

All interested groups and individuals are invited to respond. In Georgetown, chances to respond will be advertised within the first three months of 1992. You may also respond directly if you wish. Responses that is, responses to the document should be sent to: Response Centre, Long-Term Care Policy Branch, 5th Floor, Hepburn Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9.

There is a glossary of terms in the document which will aid those not familiar with the subject, and the print is large enough for easy reading to the majority of people.

I recommend this document for your study and your response. Certainly, if you do not respond,

you will have no right in the future to criticize the government for their poor systems and poor delivery. Some of you will have enough experience to be very helpful in understanding the whole area of need and will know methods to help that need to be met. Others of you, might be in disagreement with the direction this whole part of our social

Seniors for the Future

structures is taking and want to respond with your own suggestions.

Whatever chair you sit in, or flag you carry, I believe the

government is sincere in its desire to hear from you. If there is no response there will be a lot of wisdom which goes unmined, and care which is left ungiven.

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