[date]

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. full name – send to MPs ONLY],

Like many Canadians, I watched in horror as COVID-19 claimed the lives of far too many long-term care (LTC) home residents. The pandemic uncovered **serious discrepancies and deficiencies in the quality of care provided in LTC homes**, and highlighted the urgent need for national care standards. I applaud the federal government for taking action on this by tasking the Health Standards Organization (HSO) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) with developing two sets of standards: one on care services, and one on physical environments.

Published in 2023, the **HSO Standards provide comprehensive guidelines for delivering resident-centred, high-quality care,** and measures to achieve the qualified, healthy workforce needed to deliver that care. However, **these standards are currently voluntary in many jurisdictions.** Accreditation Canada has adopted the standards as a part of their accreditation program, but this program covers only about 68% of LTC homes, as just five provinces mandate accreditation. The standards will only be truly effective if all LTC homes follow them, with **adequate funding** to do so and **accountability frameworks** to ensure funds are used appropriately to meet or exceed the level of care which the standards describe.

I urge the federal government, through bilateral agreements and the forthcoming Safe Long-Term Care Act, to **incentivize provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to implement long-term care strategies that follow the LTC standards** and encourage their application **in *all* LTC facilities**. I know that you share my conviction that providing high-quality long-term care to older adults should not be optional—please consider adding your voice to the call for universal adherence to the national long-term care standards in every care home in Canada.

Thank you very much for your attention and support on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

[Name]