



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION ONTARIO CHALLENGES FORD TO EXPLAIN HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING EXTENDICARE, AFTER NEW WEST END VILLA OUTBREAK

Premier Ford, it has been reported, called Extendicare “a good company” in September, 2020 in spite of a new outbreak and increasing death rate at its West End Villa facility in Ottawa. His remark also comes just four months after the military and Lakeridge Health had to take over at the Orchard Villa facility in Pickering managed by Extendicare Assist. Orchard Villa had the highest death rate in the province.

There have been years of lawsuits against Extendicare in the U.S. and Canada and care-related problems documented in its facilities in the Canadian and American press, and in the Ford government’s own inspection reports, according to a Seniors For Social Action Ontario (SSAO) report issued today.

SSAO finds it incomprehensible that the Premier of Ontario would complement Extendicare as a good company while having had to take over one of the facilities it was managing and having had to send in the military that later detailed horrendous conditions there.

SSAO also questions what Premier Ford is basing his comments on in light of Extendicare’s history in Ontario and other jurisdictions as cited in its report. It believes Ontario taxpayers deserve an explanation. Taxpayers also deserve an explanation of how it is that Extendicare paid almost \$11 million in dividends to its shareholders while spending only \$300,000.00 of its own money in response to the pandemic as stated by Jagmeet Singh, leader of the Federal NDP, especially while staff at its West End facility say they don’t have proper PPE.

“Taxpayers, residents’ families, and older adults in Ontario have had enough of this kind of ingratiating behavior towards large nursing home corporations by Ontario politicians. The Premier should act for the people – beef up inspections and enforcement - not compliment the corporations with high infection and death rates in the facilities they operate or manage”, said a spokesperson for SSAO.