



## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **FORD GOVERNMENT DISGRACES ORDER OF ONTARIO BY REWARDING FORMER PC POLITICIANS ON THE BOARDS OF LONG TERM CARE COMPANIES**

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What a way for the Ford government to kick off the new year, by rewarding former Premier Mike Harris and former Deputy Premier Ernie Eves the Order of Ontario.

Not only did Harris slash public spending on health care, social services, and education while Premier, but he is currently the Chair of the Board of Chartwell, earning \$237,000.00 per year, even as people have been dying at rates above the provincial average in Chartwell facilities. Chartwell has the fifth highest death rates in the major chain operations in Ontario, and is the subject of class action lawsuits brought by families for their loved ones' alleged "preventable deaths".

Ernie Eves, a former Finance Minister took his first Board appointment in the private sector as an independent trustee for Retirement Residences Real Estate Investment Trust.

At a time when people continue to die in these long term care facilities, the Ford government appears to be rewarding officials or former officials of long term care companies.

"This is beyond disgusting" said Ceciley White of SSAO from Durham Region, "this government should be ashamed of itself for putting yet another finger in the eye of all of those poor families who lost loved ones in Chartwell facilities".

"This is the kind of thing that brings tears to your eyes and makes you just shake your head in horror", said Joyce Balaz, another member of SSAO from London area. "People all over Ontario should be appalled at the behavior of this government. It's as if they just don't care how they are seen by citizens of this province. They have no shame".

SSAO is calling on the Advisory Committee that recommended these appointments to resign in shame. There are so many more worthy Ontarians who should have received this award, that these two recipients make a mockery of the entire process.

## REFERENCES

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