2/8/21

Star Letters Editor:

Re: “Care home cited repeatedly for rule violations,” (2/8/21)

As pointed out by investigative reporter Kenyon Wallace, Tendercare (ironic name!) and its owner Extendicare have been cited *43 times* for violations of the government’s unenforceable infection prevention and control orders. So far, 81 senior residents of Tendercare have died from COVID in the last few months. Tendercare’s responses are the usual self-serving excuses and lies to cover up its willful and inexcusable inaction.

I agree with Dr. Patricia Spindell, co-founder of Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO), when she says she’s “not surprised” at Tendercare’s systemic negligence and violations. I’m not surprised either – just damn angry.

I’m proud to support the many sound and urgently needed recommendations of Dr. Spindell and other SSAO members; they demand establishing and funding many small community residences, and greatly expanding home care, to replace Ontario’s long-term warehouses of death. SSAO’s recommendations should be acted on now.

As usual, Premier Doug Ford and Long-Term Care Minister Merrilee Fullerton refuse to listen.

The institutional model is the problem; Ford and Fullerton just don’t get it.

Tendercare and many other private, for-profit hellholes of “care” should be shut down. How many more inspection violations and senior deaths are acceptable? Don’t expect any answers from dangerously incompetent and ignorant Doug Ford and Merrilee Fullerton. It’s time they did us all a favour by resigning.

Don Weitz, social justice advocate and author of *Resistance Matters*(2019)