12/28/20

Star letters Editor:

I laud Moira Welsh’s exposé of the warehousing of psychiatrized people and those with disabilities in nursing homes and the inexcusable shortage of community alternatives (“Overlooked residents feel impact of crisis in LTC homes,” 12/27/20). My friend Mel, an affordable housing advocate and antipsychiatry activist, born with a paralyzed arm due to cerebral palsy, survived 35+ shock treatments. At age 76, Mel choked to death in Toronto’s Cedarvale Terrace. The cause of death was covered up; there was no obituary. I’m convinced that, had Mel had been closely monitored in a small community home, staffed with trained, empathic nurses and PSWs, he would be alive today. So would thousands of other neglected seniors and people with disabilities who died from COVID-19 or other causes in Ontario’s hellish “care homes.”

The Ford government should stop supporting and colluding with these private, for-profit warehouses of elder abuse, and start funding expanded home care and multiple small empathic community residences.

So why is Ford sitting on billions and refusing to support cheaper, humane community alternatives?

Don Weitz, member of Seniors for Social Action and author of *Resistance Matters*

(See [madinamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Resistance-Matters-April-2019.pdf](https://www.madinamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Resistance-Matters-April-2019.pdf))

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