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September 17, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier - Province of Ontario  
Email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier Ford;

RTOERO is a bilingual trusted voice for healthy, active living in retirement. With almost 82,000 members in districts across Canada, we are the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education community retirees. We serve members who are retired or are approaching retirement from the early years, schools and school boards, post-secondary and the broader education community.

As an organization dedicated to improving the physical and mental health for members and older adults throughout Canada, we were pleased to see the introduction of Ontario Bill 196, Seniors Advocate Act, 2020.

If passed, Bill 196 would establish a Seniors' Advocate as an independent officer of the Ontario legislature, with the power and responsibility to safeguard the welfare of older Ontarians, caregivers and their families.

Bill 196 is being introduced against the backdrop of COVID-19, and the devastating and disproportionate impact of this pandemic on older adults, especially in long-term care facilities in Ontario and the rest of Canada. There has never been a more urgent need for a provincial advocate to ensure that the health and wellbeing of older adults and their caregivers are protected.

Ontario, by passing Bill 196 and appointing a Seniors' Advocate, would be positioned to take the lead in Canada and North America in addressing the physical and mental health needs of its elder population.





On behalf of our deeply engaged membership and partner organizations, we urge you to rapidly support the passage of Bill 196 so Ontario can proactively take a lead role in honouring and protecting our valued and growing population of seniors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Martha Foster'.

Martha Foster  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
[chair@rtoero.ca](mailto:chair@rtoero.ca)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jim Grieve'.

Jim Grieve  
Chief Executive Officer  
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