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May 11, 2020

The Hon. Christine Elliott, MPP
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

The Hon. Merilee Fullerton, MPP
Minister of Long Term Care
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ministers Elliott and Fullerton:

Re: Wage Enhancement for Health Care Workers

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce would like to thank and congratulate the Government of Ontario for its recent announcement to top up the wages of front-line health care and support workers of \$4.00 per hour during this COVID19 pandemic. There is no question that this is quite deserved and a very fitting tribute to these heroic workers.

While this subsidy would be welcomed in long term healthcare and other sectors, it has created an unfair and unsustainable situation in other sectors that employ, in particular, Personal Service Workers (PSWs) who are not eligible for this wage enhancement.

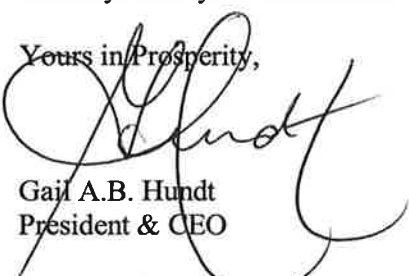
Unfortunately, the result is that, Personal Support Workers are choosing employment and support services based on this wage enhancement and leaving some patients and clients in private care facilities at a significant disadvantage.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is calling on the Government of Ontario to extend the wage enhancement equally to those workers in private care the same as those working in public or institutional care.

This fairness in wages will go a long way to ensure that all people in Ontario requiring personal or health care support are treated equally and that no one is left behind.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours in Prosperity,



Gail A.B. Hundt
President & CEO

c,c, - Chatham-Kent M.P.P.'s
Ontario Chamber of Commerce