



Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home Bulletin to the Community

In response to questions we have received from the community, Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home would like to share some information about our home and Long-Term Care protocols.

Who funds long-term care beds in Ontario?

All basic and private long-term care beds in Ontario are partially funded by the provincial government. The rest is paid out of pocket by residents, depending on their ability to pay. Extra activities for residents that are available in some homes are paid for through fundraising. For example, Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home relies heavily on community donations through the Labdara Foundation.

Who controls the waiting list for a Long-Term Care bed?

The Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) determines who is on the waiting list, and a person's position on the list. LHIN uses such factors as level of need and health status to determine where people are placed on the list. Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home does not have any control over the waiting list, nor on the admission process.

As of April 1, 2021, Ontario Health will be overseeing the LHINs. While the LHINs will continue to manage long-term care home waiting lists, their name will change to Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS).

Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected admission to Labdara?

The COVID 19 virus has had a significant impact on Long-Term Care, and has affected the admission process. Lithuanians have a higher ranking on the general waitlist for Labdara – so they are ranked higher than non-Lithuanians unless someone requires a crisis admission. COVID-19 has put enormous pressure on hospitals. Patients who are in hospital waiting for a long-term care bed are automatically deemed as crisis on the waiting list. These patients are offered a bed first, regardless of their ethnic background. HCCSS does not skip people within the order on the waiting list. The first available bed goes to the person who is at the top of the list at that time.

I can no longer manage at home. How do I get onto the waiting list for a long-term care home?

You must contact Home and Community Care Support Services and ask for an assessment. A nurse will do the assessment and determine whether you meet the eligibility criteria for admission to a long-term care home. You will be assigned a Case Manager. All communication about your potential move to a long-term care home will go through them. You do not need to call the long-term care homes to which you have applied as they do not control the waiting list.

Do I have to apply to 5 long-term care homes?

The more homes that are on your list, the greater the likelihood that you will be offered a bed sooner. However, you can choose between one and five homes. If you feel strongly that your needs can only be met in a Lithuanian environment, then be sure to make Labdara your first choice. You may also choose Labdara exclusively.

You can apply for either a basic or a private bed. Consider applying for both types of beds to increase your chances of getting into the home that you have chosen. Be aware that you will pay significantly more for a private than a basic bed. Once you are in the home, you may have an opportunity to change your type of room as beds become available.

Can I move up on the waiting list due to a change in my condition?

Yes. If your condition changes and you need more care, you should call your Case Manager and ask to be reassessed. Your Case Manager will determine how urgently you need a bed, and move you on the list accordingly.

I heard about crisis admissions, what does that mean?

If a person's current situation becomes critical, and they develop an immediate need for a long-term care bed, they require a crisis admission. After an assessment by the case manager, HCCSS would place the person at the top of the waiting list. They would be offered the first available bed in the system, regardless of who is on the waiting list, and whether they have chosen a particular home. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Labdara has had more crisis admissions than it has in the past.

Do I have to accept an offer of a bed?

If you receive an offer for a bed at Labdara, we strongly encourage you to take it. If you do not take it, you will be removed from the waiting list, have to wait for several months, and will need to reapply. The spot that you were offered will go to the next person on the list who may not be Lithuanian. In the past month alone, 6 Lithuanians turned down an offer for a bed at Labdara as they were reluctant to move into long-term care during the pandemic.

Is there a minimum number of Lithuanian residents that must be at Labdara?

No, there is no minimum. However, the home was built through generous support from the Lithuanian community. Thus, there is a strong desire on our part to admit as many people of Lithuanian descent as possible, even if they may not speak Lithuanian. From March 1, 2020 to March 17, 2021, fifteen of 24 people who were admitted to Labdara were Lithuanians.

What can you do to voice your concerns and help to ensure that people of Lithuanian descent get priority admission to Labdara?

You could:

- Contact the Ministries of Health and Long Term Care at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/>
- Call the Long-Term Care ACTION line at 1-866-434-0144.
- Contact Christine Hogarth, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore at: <https://www.christinehogarthmpp.ca/contact>

Consider addressing the following points in your communication with them:

- Ask for ethnic consideration on the crisis list for long-term care home admission. For example, if a Lithuanian is in the top 5 crisis placements, the Lithuanian should become the first priority for admission to Labdara.
- Emphasize the value to Lithuanian seniors of being in an environment that provides person-centred, culturally sensitive care and socialization. Meeting culturally specific and emotion-based needs such as language, food, and religious customs can contribute to an individual's health, well-being, and comfort.
- Mention that many Lithuanian seniors worked hard for and donated to the establishment of Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home. They trusted that their efforts and contributions would one day be rewarded with their own inevitable placement there. They should be able to continue their long-term involvement in their Lithuanian community.