

CARP and ACE Send Open Letter to Ontario Premier Demanding Public Inquiry

June 26, 2017 (Toronto) – Today, CARP and the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly sent an open letter to Ontario Premier, Kathleen Wynne, to demand a public inquiry into the Elizabeth Wettlaufer Murders and the systematic failures of long-term care.

The letter comes out as the former Ontario nurse, Wettlaufer, is sentenced for the murder of eight long-term care residents, the attempted murder of four, and two aggravated assaults.

In the open letter, CARP and the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly demand that the government establish a public inquiry to examine the specifics of this case, and the systematic failures which allowed these crimes to happen and go unnoticed and unreported over the course of several years (2007 – 2014).

“CARP is very concerned about attitudes and behaviours towards our most vulnerable Canadians in long-term care,” says Wanda Morris, VP of Advocacy for CARP. “A public inquiry is long-overdue. Like abuse uncovered in residential schools, I suspect we will learn problems reach much further than we currently imagine.”

The crimes took place in three long-term care homes and a private home. In 2014, after being accused of making repeated medication-related errors, Wettlaufer was finally fired from Caressant Care Nursing Home in Woodstock, ON. This did not prevent her from obtaining employment and access to elderly patients and medication in another home and in the community.

It was not until October 2016 that Wettlaufer was charged for her crimes after police became aware of information she had provided while in a psychiatric hospital. During her trial, it was confirmed the cause of deaths was from insulin injections.

“While Wettlaufer has now pled guilty to her crimes, it’s done nothing to ease the minds of Ontarians concerned about loved ones who live, or may one day live, in long-term care,” says Jane Meadus, Lawyer and Institutional Advocate, Advocacy Centre for the Elderly.