

Statement from CARP and ACE on the Announcement to Establish a Public Inquiry into the Circumstances of the Elizabeth Wettlaufer Case

June 26, 2017 - CARP and the Advocacy Centre (ACE) for the elderly are pleased the Ontario government has committed to an independent public inquiry and issued the following statement:

“We eagerly await the terms of the inquiry to ensure that its scope is sufficient to address the actions, responsibilities and duties of the many institutions and individuals who failed to prevent or put a timely stop to Wettlaufer's crimes, and to look at the systemic issues which have failed to protect residents of long-term care homes.

Individuals across the province have had their confidence in long-term care homes in Ontario severely shaken. This is a critical first step to restoring trust in our long-term healthcare system.”

Today, the Attorney General Yasir Naqvi and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Eric Hoskins, issued the following statement after pressure from advocacy groups and sentencing of former nurse, Elizabeth Wettlaufer:

“On behalf of the Ontario government, we want to express our deepest condolences to the victims, their families and the communities in Woodstock and London and the surrounding areas.

What happened was a tragedy. That’s why we are establishing an independent public inquiry to look into the circumstances in this case.

Our next step is to formally establish the public inquiry through an Order in Council. The order will set out the scope of the inquiry and appoint the commissioner who will lead it. The government is actively engaged in finalizing these details and, once approved, will make them available to the public.

We want to assure the public that Ontario’s 78,000 long-term care residents are safe in their homes. Our oversight system in Long Term Care specifically focuses on the safety and security of our residents and we will continue to work to ensure all of our homes are meeting the highest standards.

It is our hope that through the inquiry process, we will get the answers we need to help ensure a tragedy such as this does not happen again.”

To read more about CARP and ACE’s demand for a public inquiry into the Wettlaufer murders and the systematic failures of long-term care, visit www.carp.ca/inquiry.