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Monday April 20, 2020

Greetings All,

It can be difficult to follow the latest developments in the rapidly evolving novel Coronavirus. In our local we have 5 units that have covid-19 outbreaks and we understand how scared and frustrated our frontline workers are, and rightfully so.

The Local has contacted the national President Jerry Dias and Katha Fortier Assistant to the President representing Healthcare to speak and provide us with assistance to deal with this crisis in our LTC homes especially at Forest Heights Revera.

Staff are contacting us because they are being required to work even when they test positive and they are afraid of infecting residents and other co-workers. Those staff that have tested negative are frightened that they may get infected by a co-worker because they continue to share washrooms and eating areas.

We have contacted the employers asking them to isolate the residents properly to stop the spread of the virus throughout the workplace.

We are asking the government to step up and set proper guidelines in long-term care to stop the spread of this virus. The governments directive allows long-term care homes to have staff that test positive and don't have symptoms to work in a long-term care home under measures that are inadequate and impractical.

The union committee consisting of the chairperson, Local rep and National rep have brought concerns to the management team to implement changes in the way they are dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic. Our goal is to protect our workers and residents and stop the spread of this virus.

We have been in contact with our Local MPP Laura Mae Lindo and she asked us to bring forward to her your story as a frontline worker during this most difficult time. Please email your thoughts and experiences to the local at either Ruth@unifor1106.ca or Dayle@unifor1106.ca. We would be grateful and proud to pass along your story.

Please know that we are thinking about all of you and appreciate the work you do every day.
Stay safe,