



## Two Resident Deaths at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Saturday, April 25, 2020 (9am) – Ottawa, Ontario

It is with heavy hearts that The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre shares news of the passing of two community member residents. We have extended condolences to the family and friends of the residents and our team is working with our Family and Friends Council and the Residents' Council to provide what comfort we are able.

A resident living on the isolation unit in the Ottawa Building passed away from complications related to COVID-19. The second individual, a resident of Gatineau 2 South, died from acute respiratory illness. COVID-19 is suspected but has not yet been confirmed.

To date, two resident deaths are attributed to COVID-19 and a third is pending confirmation. In the past 24 hours, there have not been any new positive COVID-19 test results for residents. Six residents who have COVID-19 reside in the 20-bed isolation unit where care and safety measures are enhanced. Testing for COVID-19 has now been completed on all residents. Families are being contacted directly by Perley Rideau staff to communicate the results.

Three staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last day including a Meal Helper on Gatineau 2 North, a member of the Housekeeping team on Rideau 2 North and a PSW working in the Specialized Behavioural Support Unit. This brings the total number of staff testing positive for COVID-19 to 18. All staff members are self-isolating for 14 days at home and are welcome to return to work following two negative COVID-19 test results. We thank them for their dedication and wish them a speedy recovery.

As guided by the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Perley Rideau declared a facility-wide outbreak on April 15th, following the first positive test received by a staff member. On April 18th, the Perley Rideau launched a precautionary swab testing regime for all residents and staff. Supplementing ongoing testing from Ottawa Public Health, there have been a total of 1260 tests on staff and residents. This testing will continue for residents and staff in effort to identify and isolate the virus. Families will be notified directly when a resident is re-tested and contacted directly when results arrive. Perley Rideau aspires to open and transparent communications with staff, residents and families.

"To the families and friends of the residents who have passed away, please accept our deepest condolences," says CEO Akos Hoffer. "Know that our team is united against this virus and we are making effort to support resident quality of life."

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is one of the largest and most progressive long-term care homes in Ontario. In addition to the 450 long-term and short-stay care beds for Veterans and members of the public, the Perley Rideau campus includes a Seniors Village with independent-living apartments for 200 seniors. It employs a staff of more than 850.

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