

Senior Living

**CaRES**

## **Ninety-one More Frontline Senior Living Sector Workers Receive Support From The Senior Living CaRES Fund** **17-12-21**

*The Senior Living CaRES Fund was established early in the pandemic to provide emergency relief to frontline senior living sector employees facing extraordinary circumstances and personal hardship.*

TORONTO, December 17, 2021 / - The Senior Living CaRES Fund (The Fund) is providing an update on its continued support for frontline senior living sector workers. The Fund has awarded financial support to 91 new applicants in its most recent funding cycle. This is the largest number of applicants to receive support in a funding cycle. To date, more than 872 employees in the senior living sector have received funds totalling more than \$2.9 million in emergency financial assistance since contributions first began in May 2020. New recipients have been informed and these most recent grants are being distributed.

The Senior Living CaRES Fund was established by founding partners Chartwell Retirement Residences, Revera Inc., Extencicare and Sienna Senior Living. In 2021, the Fund welcomed Southbridge Care Homes as a Platinum sponsor and OMNI Health Care as a Gold sponsor.

Open to all employees in the senior living sector, and inspired by their dedication and commitment, the Fund provides financial assistance to those facing extraordinary circumstances and will build a legacy for future investment to support urgent financial needs and employee education.

In their applications, employees spoke of the tremendous sacrifices they've made, over the last 20 months, like moving out of their home to reduce risk to vulnerable family members, homeschooling children while balancing work, and becoming the primary provider for their family when a spouse was laid-off. Despite these difficulties, employees spoke of their deep commitment and connection to the senior living communities they serve and the residents they support. Employees shared news of the grants with co-workers and helped each other in completing submissions - highlighting the sector's shared sense of team spirit.

"The devastating impacts of the pandemic not only destabilized work environments, but also upended personal lives," says Hazel McCallion, Honorary Chair of Senior Living CaRES Fund. "This Fund recognizes that, and continues to applaud frontline team members who come to

work each day, despite uncertainty and rapidly changing circumstances to provide compassionate, quality care to the residents we serve nation-wide."

### **Facts about the Senior Living CaRES Fund**

- To date, the Fund has received over 7,700 applications
  - A nurse at a retirement residence, who is a single mother, was awarded \$5,400 to support rent and utilities payments
  - A personal support worker at a retirement residence was awarded \$1,250 to support rent payments
  - A nurse, at a long-term care home, who is the sole provider, was awarded \$5,000 for roof repairs
  - A dietary aide at a retirement residence was awarded \$3,100 to support rent and utilities payments
  - A health care aide at a long-term care home was awarded \$3,000 to support utilities
- Applicants included personal support workers, registered nurses, registered practical nurses, licenced practical nurses and dietary aides
- Fifty-four per cent of recipients are employed at senior living residences independent of the founding partners (Chartwell Retirement Residences, Revera Inc., Extendicare and Sienna Senior Living)

### **An Initiative for the Future**

The Senior Living CaRES Fund has recently secured charitable registration. As a registered charity, the Fund will continue its legacy post-COVID-19 with the mandate to provide consistent support to employees. The Fund will build a legacy for the future with the goal to continue to provide financial support for workers experiencing hardship and to support workers in the sector as they pursue relevant educational opportunities to advance their careers. As the Fund evolves, it will always be rooted in the history of COVID-19 so that Canadians will never forget the heroic contributions and dedication of senior living sector employees.

### **About The Senior Living CaRES Fund**

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