

TILING TOGETHER INCLUSION WITHIN LONG TERM CARE HOMES IN ONTARIO

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Brief Description of Research or Project: Ontario currently has over 620 long term care homes and an aging population. Each long term care home is situated within communities that reflect diverse intersections of identities. An inquiry was set by the Family Councils' Program to examine current practices which reflect the needs of diverse families that have loved ones in care. The mixed methods research project documented lived experiences and stories intricately and intimately conveying the diversity within long term care homes in Ontario. Families, administrators, and governmental bodies shared their unique experiences of their loved ones in care, and their experience as a family member. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** Families and persons of importance are a key role to persons in care within long term care homes. The research project was a response to the increasing inquiries to The Family Councils' Program regarding diverse practices within long term care (including language barriers, appropriate foods/activities). The research project is important for the long term care research day, as it provides an in-depth, qualitative tour of the intimate experiences for families with loved ones in care. The research project consisted of 4 focus groups, 4 individual interviews, and an online survey to anyone involved in long term care; all of which took place within Ontario. The project takes a shift from models of care in long term care, to the emotional/social aspects of care, and its implications within a broader context. Understanding the complexities of how persons living within long term care in Ontario can begin a dialogue of how practices can be shaped. The research project resulted in seven themes which speak to the long term care system and the voices of families with loved ones in long term care. It will contribute immensely to this event as it highlights the impacts of current practices in long term care homes in Ontario and provides innovative ways of advocacy and practice as constructed by the participants.