**Transforming care for Seniors and Veterans** 

# Honour and Care 2021 Community Impact Report



# Labour of love

Peter McKinnon

The last two years, Dr. Annie Robitaille feels as if she's been living her dream. Being appointed the inaugural Commissionaires Ottawa Research Chair in Frailty-Informed Care at Canada's first Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ (CoE) was only the beginning. Since then, Annie and the CoE have been caught up in a whirlwind of activity and accomplishment.

"We have made fantastic progress on each one of our goals in such a short time," Annie says. "I feel blessed to have such strong support from my team, and from donors and stakeholders. This support gives us the opportunity to improve quality of life for generations of Seniors and Veterans living with frailty."

### Annie Robitaille Ph.D.

Commissionaires Ottawa Research Chair, Perley
Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty- Informed Care™
Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa

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## About us

Perley Health is a unique and innovative community that empowers Seniors and Veterans to live life to the fullest. Home to more than 600 Seniors and Veterans in long-term care and in independent living apartments, Perley Health provides a growing number of clinical, therapeutic and recreational services to residents, tenants and people from across the region.

One of the largest and most progressive long-term care homes in Ontario, Perley Health is also a centre for research, education, and clinical innovation. The Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ conducts and shares the practical research needed to improve care. Future caregivers come here to study and to acquire hands-on skills and experience.

Perley Health's values are brought to life each day by our over 800 employees and more than 300 regular volunteers connect us closely with the community. Together we improve the well-being of Canada's aging population.



## Donors like you make it all happen. Thank you!

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## Labour of love

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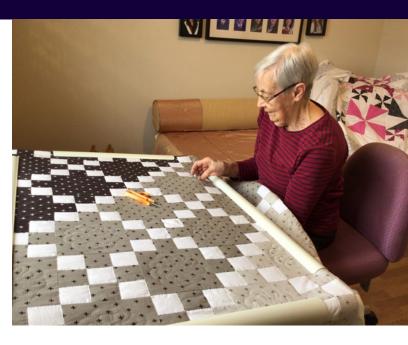
Annie Robitaille comes by her passion honestly — she's always been close to her grandparents. For much of her childhood and teenage years, her paternal grandparents lived in an apartment on the ground floor of the family home.

"At the time, it was wonderful; today, though, I wonder how they managed to put up with the dance parties I would sometimes host," she says with a smile. "Now that they're both gone, I often think of the stories they told me."

Annie remains close with her maternal grandmother, who's now in her 90s. During the pandemic, they've made quilts together even though they live hundreds of kilometres apart. Annie does the sewing, her grandmother does the embroidery and they send their handiworks back and forth by courier. During weekly video calls, they show the progress they've made and catch up on family news.

"She inspires me every day," says Annie. "I know that the research we do can really improve older adults' quality of life, along with the quality of care they receive. I love my job and feel I'm exactly where I need to be right now."

While still in university, Annie began to appreciate that practical research can improve people's lives. She initially enrolled in criminology, but loved psychology courses so much that she changed her major. And once she got in involved in research, she was hooked. At the time, the psychology of older adults was less studied. Annie was drawn to it, though, in part because she was so close to her grandparents and because she had enjoyed volunteering in a seniors' home while in high school. Annie found a PhD supervisor who specialized in the field and earned her doctorate in 2010. Her dissertation examined the role of social support on psychological distress among older Canadians. Since then, her research has ranged from the study of long-term care (LTC) to responsive



## Annie's grandmother Doris Maillet (Mémère) works on a quilt at her home in Bathurst, NB.

behaviours and social isolation of older adults living with frailty.

"When I heard that Perley Health planned to establish the Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™, it sounded perfect for me," says Annie. "I applied right away."

The CoE facilitates the applied research needed to improve the care of Seniors and Veterans living with frailty. A person living with frailty is less able to cope with minor stresses and more likely to suffer rapid and dramatic changes in health. Not all older people will live with frailty, although the risk of frailty increases with age. There is arguably no better location for the CoE than Perley Health, home to approximately 450 residents (many of them Veterans who served overseas) in LTC, along with approximately 200 seniors in 139 independent-living apartments. The CoE supports Perley Health's mission of excellence in the health, safety and well-being of Seniors and Veterans, and is funded by donations to the Perley Health Foundation.

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In 2021, Commissionaires Ottawa donated \$2 million to the Foundation's Answering the Call campaign.

"The generous donation from Commissionaires Ottawa is a major milestone for us," says Annie. "It's one of many indications of the solid progress we're making — and absolutely must make — on issues of housing and caring for Seniors and Veterans living with frailty. Canada's population of older adults living with frailty is expected to



Annie Robitaille works on a quilt as Humphrey, the family dog, looks on.

triple in the next couple of decades and we need to ensure that our healthcare and LTC systems can cope with this surge."

Along with securing funding through donations and research grants, the CoE has made remarkable progress in other key areas. It continues to attract high-calibre researchers and partners, for instance, and growing numbers of peer-reviewed journals publish its studies.

"Knowledge transfer is vital," says Annie. "To truly transform care, we have to ensure that other homes can apply what we learn from research, such as evidence-based best practices."

Several of the CoE's current research projects focus on the impact of social isolation on physical and mental health. Given the lockdowns and visitation restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the topic is particularly timely. One interview-based study focuses specifically on the psycho-social impacts of visitation restrictions, while another evaluates the success of online peer-support groups. Yet another measures the impacts of having

university student volunteers conduct virtual visits with older adults living with dementia.

"All of these projects will improve our understanding of social isolation and how to minimize its impacts on the health of people with frailty," says Annie. "While the worst of the pandemic may be over, its impacts will linger for decades to come. By studying how efforts to control the spread of contagious disease can increase feelings of social isolation and loneliness, and contribute to poor health outcomes, we'll be better prepared for the next pandemic."

Annie's grandmother, who lives in an apartment, broke her hip during the pandemic. Everyone in the family was terrified, because the consequences can be life-threatening consequences for people in her 90s.

"She's made a full recovery," says Annie. "And every day, she's back to using her treadmill and doing a little embroidery. I want more Canadians of her age to be as active, engaged and healthy as she is. And I know that our research can help make this possible."

## Loud and clear





For Perley Health Foundation, it has been a year of remarkable achievement and progress. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation raised more money for the care of Seniors and Veterans than in any year in our history. The number of first-time donors — both individuals and organizations — also reached a new high. Unprecedented numbers of community leaders have stepped up to support us not only by donating, but also by tapping into their networks and offering their professional expertise. For the Foundation, it is a watershed moment: our mission and vision are more clearly understood and better appreciated than ever before.

Perhaps more remarkable is that these accomplishments have occurred during one of the most difficult periods in recent memory. COVID-19 has taken a terrible toll, particularly among residents of long-term care homes, including Perley Health. The impacts of the pandemic will be felt for generations. In the face of this crisis, however, the Perley Health community has responded with courage, commitment and selflessness. Staff have worked harder than ever, delivering the best care possible while adapting to continual changes in protocols. A steady stream of individuals, businesses and organizations have arrived at our door with donations of everything from coffee and facemasks to iPads and cash. The true legacy of COVID-19 lies in how our community has responded.

The pandemic forced Canadians to confront some of the difficult realities of long-term care. Early on, news coverage focused on the physical toll: large numbers of residents dying from COVID-19, often due to overcrowding. Months later, it was the mental toll: visitation restrictions meant that countless residents spent their time alone, socially isolated. Responding to both is central to the Foundation and to the *Answering the Call* 

campaign. We have an opportunity to transform care for Seniors and Veterans living with frailty. And based on the response from donors, the community is determined to make the most of this opportunity.

In the coming decades, the number of Canadians living with frailty is expected to triple. This surge threatens to overwhelm our healthcare and long-term care sectors as they currently operate. To meet this challenge, we must research, design and implement new models of care. As documented elsewhere in this issue, the Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ is making an ever-larger contribution to this effort, thanks to the support of donors.

Current residents of Perley Health also benefit significantly from the support of donors. A few weeks ago, I was reminded of this fact during a meeting of our Veteran Residents Council.

Seven decades ago, Jean-Louis Roy served in the Korean War. Today, at age 95, he participates on the Veteran Residents Council. During a recent meeting, he expressed his gratitude for the quality of life he enjoys. "I know that this will be my last home," Jean Louis said. "I appreciate all that you do to make it my best home."

Heartfelt statements such as Jean-Louis' inspire the entire Perley Health community to do our best. The response to our *Answering the Call* campaign continues to be enthusiastic; the message from donors is loud and clear. Thank you for your continued support and trust.

Delphine Haslé, CFRE

Granddaughter, Donor, Executive Director

## Your giving matters

### Here are just a few examples of how donations have helped transform care for Seniors and Veterans at Perley Health:

- Purchased important equipment, like pressure relieving mattresses, Broda chairs, vital sign machines and lifts providing residents with the care and comfort they deserve.
- Provided residents with a wonderful range of meaningful activities from pottery, painting and woodworking, concerts, day trips and music therapy through the Ozerdinc Grimes Family Therapeutic Recreation and Creative Arts Program.
- Staff were able to enhance their skills and stay at the forefront of care through specialized training, scholarships and bursaries.
- Welcomed 60 student volunteers as part of the Summer Youth Volunteer Program, transforming the lives of all those who participated.
- COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines were distributed using a new flu-buggy cart named by you, 'The Vac Mobile'
- New housekeeping carts are keeping those who live, visit and work here safe thanks to enhanced cleaning measures.
- Throughout the year, Perley Health Foundation was able to respond to needs as they emerged. Some of the emerging needs in 2021 were purchasing new outdoor seating, extending the life of equipment by replacing battery packs, and delivering new programs to Perley Health Senior Living tenants.
- Trained the next generation of health care workers in our Interprofessional Clinics.
- Fueled research studies that are changing and improving the way we care for Seniors and Veterans living with frailty through the Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care.

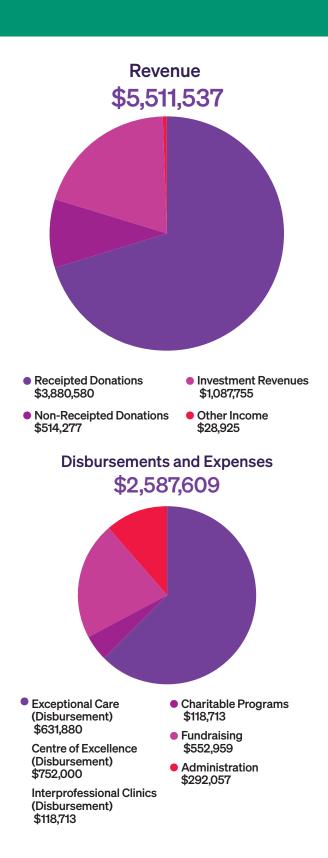
#### Please visit

PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/2021CommunityImpactReport for a full list of donors who helped to transform care for Seniors and Veterans.



## 2021 Financial highlights





# Experiencing the SeeMe<sup>™</sup> culture



## Wendy Nicklin alongside her mother Norma McKnight and brother Don McKnight at a family birthday celebration in April 2022.

In November 2019, Wendy Nicklin helped Norma McKnight, her then 100 year-old mother, move into Perley Health.

"Until you experience it for yourself, you never really understand what it's like to move and settle a parent into long-term care," says Wendy.

For the previous nine years, Norma had lived in a

retirement home. As the dementia Norma lives with worsened, the home could no longer provide the care she needed.

"Everyone in my family is so grateful that Mom is at Perley Health," says Wendy. "She receives much better and more appropriate care now, and her care needs have only increased." Wendy's considerable experience in healthcare — most of it focused on improving the quality of care — lends her endorsement additional weight. After completing a degree in nursing, Wendy embarked on a stellar 35-year career, largely in leadership roles. Most recently, she served as President of the International Society for Quality in Health Care. Prior to that, she was President and CFO of Accreditation Canada.

"Although I knew about Perley Health, I didn't recognize just

how much they shared my healthcare values and my passion for improving care quality," says Wendy. "I found out soon enough, though."

The Perley Health care team met with Wendy in advance of moving day to discuss ways to smooth the transition for Norma. They suggested that Wendy help them make Norma's new room look as much like her old room as possible.

"They had me put post-it notes up on the walls of her new room indicating exactly which paintings and photos go where," says Wendy. "That helped make the transition all but seamless. I don't know if Mom even recognized that she's moved."

To develop Norma's care plan, Wendy and the care team used SeeMe™: Understanding *frailty* together. Developed at Perley Health, SeeMe™ customizes each resident's care plan based on their values, preferences and desired lifestyle.

"My experience at Perley Health is that SeeMe™ is more of a culture than a program," says Wendy. "All of the staff and volunteers understand resident-centred care. Everyone recognizes and respects that we are guests in the residents' home."

Given her professional background, it is perhaps not surprising that Wendy now volunteers with the Family and Friends Council executive. She



Wendy, Norma and Granddaughter, Rebecca - Christmas 2019.

also recently took advantage of an opportunity to complete Gentle Persuasive Approach, a full-day course focused on caring for people living with dementia. The course is required training for all caregiving staff at Perley Health and is offered to volunteers when space permits. Wendy supports the organization's efforts to advance the quality of long-term care delivered at all homes.

"Research is fundamental to quality improvement and the Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Fraily-Informed Care™ is a phenomenal vehicle for improving care through practical research and knowledge translation," Wendy says. "By sharing what it learns through research in publications and webinars, the Centre of Excellence makes it possible for all long-term homes to improve care."

While she no longer works full time, Wendy continues to serve on the boards of directors of several organizations, including Hospice Care Ottawa and Queensway Carleton Hospital. Every other day, though, she visits Norma and plays music that her mother enjoyed listening to decades ago.

"It's reassuring to know that Mom receives exceptional care from professionals who warmly respect each resident as an individual," says Wendy.

## A shared commitment

Blake Goldring, Paul Hindo and Guy Thibault, all top leaders in their respective fields, have joined forces to support the *Answering the Call* campaign. Along with contributing a significant amount to the campaign, each actively encourages their friends and colleagues to donate, as well.

Blake Goldring is Executive Chairman of AGF Management Limited, an independent and globally diverse asset-management firm. Paul Hindo is Executive Chairman of CyDef, a global cyber-security firm. Lt.-Gen. Guy Thibault rose to the position of Vice-Chief of Defence Staff before retiring two years ago. All actively serve on the boards of various charities and companies.

"We're united by our great respect for Canada's Veterans, and for the men and women who serve today," says Blake Goldring. "We feel it's our duty to honour their service and supporting the *Answering the Call* is an effective way to do that."

Each man has a strong connection with the Canadian Forces. Guy Thibault served for 38 years. Paul Hindo served as a reservist for many years, retired as Captain and was later named Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Army. Blake Goldring, the first civilian named Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Army, earned a Canadian Forces Decoration for his work with Canada Company, the non-profit he founded in 2006.

"The original concept of Canada Company was to better connect members of the Canadian Forces with civilians and particularly with the business community," says Blake



Initially dedicated to funding the post-secondary education of the children of fallen soldiers, Canada Company now supports a range of initiatives that benefit Canadian Forces members and their families. Paul Hindo serves as Vice-Chair of Canada Company.

"The Canada Company slogan — 'many ways to serve' — really resonates with the business community," says Paul Hindo. "Many of us in the business community rarely see people in uniform but appreciate their service. Canada Company provides them a way to show their appreciation."

The three men have known one another for decades; Guy and Paul went to the same high school, although they didn't get to know each other until years later. Blake and Guy first met at a Canadian Forces ceremony more than a decade ago and quickly became close friends. Over the years, all three men's appreciation for Perley Health has grown significantly.

"Perley Health is remarkable because it's at the leading edge of both care and research," says Guy Thibault. "They provide top-quality care to Veterans and Seniors, and partner in the research needed to develop ever-better models of care. Given Canada's demographic realities, this is essential work."

As past Board Chair of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre — originally established as a Veterans' hospital — Blake Goldring is familiar with the need for new models of care.

"Canada's population of frail Seniors and Veterans is growing rapidly," he says. "We simply cannot accommodate this growth using our current models of housing and care. The Answering the Call campaign aims to meet this challenge."

In late May, the three men hosted a successful Canada Company event at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club to raise funds for the *Answering the Call* campaign.

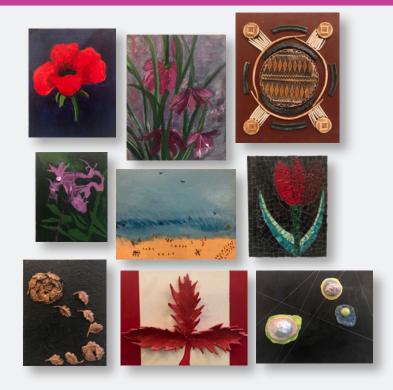
# Celebration of extraordinary giving

Thank you to the Ozerdinc Grimes Family for Answering the Call. This gift marks the largest gift from a family in the history of Perley Health Foundation.

In recognition of their generosity, the Therapeutic Recreation & Creative Arts Program has been renamed.

# Ozerdinc Grimes Family

Therapeutic Recreation & Creative Arts Program







L-R: Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director, Captain (N) Paul A. Guindon, (Ret'd), CEO Commissionaires Ottawa and Akos Hoffer, Perley Health CEO

In June 2021, Commissionaires Ottawa donated \$2 million to the *Answering the Call* campaign. This marks the largest gift in Perley Health Foundation's history.

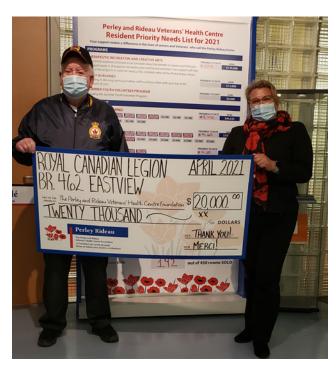
In recognition of their generosity, the Centre of Excellence Research Chair is now known as Commissionaires Ottawa Research Chair in Frailty-Informed Care.

# Ongoing support from the Royal Canadian Legion

2021 marked an incredible year of giving from the Royal Canadian Legion Branches throughout District G. In total, \$172,000 was donated from 29 different branches.

Money raised from the Royal Canadian Legion's annual Poppy Campaign is donated to support the care and comfort of Veterans living at Perley Health.

In 2021, the Royal Canadian Legion Branches provided everything from a good night's sleep on new specialized mattresses to peace of mind with new vital sign machines and enabled more residents to participate in programs thanks to new Broda chairs.



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 462 Eastview



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 589 Osgoode



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 406 Barry's Bay



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 462 Eastview



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 95 Smiths Falls



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 593 Bells Corners



Royal Canadian Legion Br. 616 West Carleton Royal Canadian Legion Br. 314 Manotick



### For more information on how your branch can support Veterans at Perley Health, please contact:

Courtney Rock at 613-526-7170 × 7177 or crock@perleyhealth.ca

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# It takes a comm

### A year of generosity and creativity.

Throughout 2021 our community showed their support for staff and residents in a variety of unique and creative ways! From birthday fundraisers on Facebook, pipe bands marching around campus, knitting and book sales, to Deborah's Gift Boutique's donation. It is clear that our community is behind us, showing their support in more ways than one. In total over \$203,000 was raised by community events.

To learn more about hosting your own Community Event contact Courtney Rock crock@perleyhealth.ca or 613-526-7170

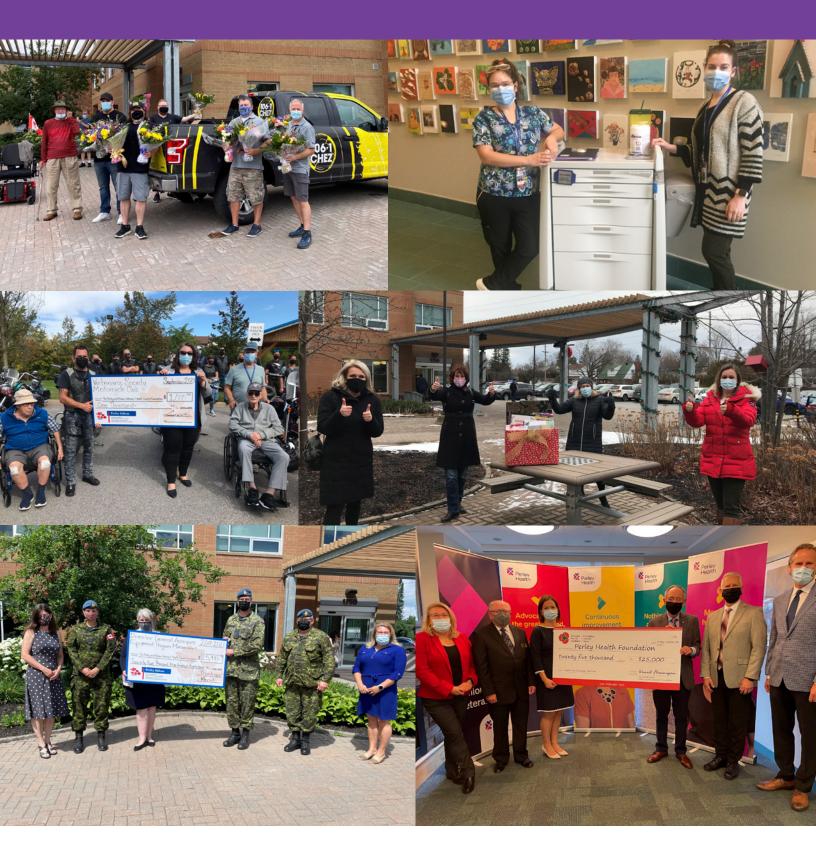


# unity









## A year of steady progress



While the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult, I am extremely proud of the progress Perley Health has made, largely thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our staff, and to the generous support of donors. Our day-to-day focus remains maximizing quality of life while protecting the health and safety of residents, tenants, staff and their families. How we've achieved this balance shifts continually during the pandemic. The last two years, though, are marked by the tangible progress made toward our larger goals.

As this issue's feature article makes clear, our Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ (CoE) has accomplished a great deal in the last year. The publication of CoE studies about SeeMe™: Understanding frailty together, our Living Classroom, falls-prevention training and virtual reality all contribute to our larger goal of transforming care for Seniors and Veterans. As the number of peer-reviewed journals publishing CoE research studies increases, so too does the number of long-term care (LTC) homes able to access and apply the latest evidence-based best practices and lessons learned. The CoE has also been able to attract top-flight researchers and partners, secure funding from granting agencies and advance its ambitious research agenda. Strong donor support, particularly Commissionaires Ottawa's \$2 million leadership gift, helps ensure that this momentum will continue.

These accomplishments contribute to the success of our advocacy efforts. Advocacy is essentially about establishing and nurturing long-term relationships; it's as much about listening carefully as it is about communicating clearly and consistently. And the success of advocacy can only be measured over time. In the last year, Veterans Affairs Canada allotted Perley Health additional spaces for Other Qualified Veterans and agreed to fund a study in support of our Veteran residents and their families. Another indication of success

was the mention of Perley Health in the prebudget report tabled by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The mention relates to the ideas I proposed last fall on how the Government of Ontario could increase the number of LTC beds in the province.

Our advocacy also engages people outside of government, such as staff, residents, tenants, volunteers and their families. A good example of this is the ongoing effort to update our Strategic Plan in consultation with more than a dozen stakeholder groups. Our Board of Directors recently approved the update, largely thanks to the enthusiastic contributions from many in the Perley Health community. The fact that so many people care so strongly about the plan bodes well for our future.

The successful introduction of our new brand is another key accomplishment. The new brand effectively communicates Perley Health's vision of Seniors and Veterans empowered to reach their full potential and live their best possible life at every age. To realize this vision, we must advocate for better care, and conduct, validate and disseminate the research needed to improve care. We must also help resolve the full spectrum of related issues: human resources, training, housing and more. And we must continue to earn the respect and support of donors.

Every aspect of Perley Health's success — exceptional resident care, cutting-edge research, innovative partnerships and programs — results directly from the generosity of donors. Thank you. Together, we are transforming care for Seniors and Veterans.

Akos Hoffer,

CEO, Perley Health

## Answering the call.

Perley Health Is *Answering the Call* to transform the care for Seniors And Veterans.

Will you join us?

Answering

THE CALL

**Donate Today** 

answeringthecall.care



At Perley Health, we work hard every day to provide exceptional care to our residents and peace of mind to families and caregivers. We also work diligently and quietly to transform care for Seniors and Veterans across Canada. We know, from recent history there is an urgent need to elevate care and quality of life in long-term care homes nationally.

Perley Health is ready to transform care for seniors better from coast to coast to coast. We have a long history of caring for Seniors and Veterans, and the trust of families, governments, healthcare and educational partners. We have the people, plan and place to deliver on our vision of transforming care for seniors living with frailty while continuing to deliver exceptional care for our own Seniors and Veterans.

Through the Answering the Call Campaign, Perley Health is taking its first major step in playing a larger role in elevating care for seniors living with frailty through exceptional care, applied research, innovation and education.

Starting this month asking people of all ages across all its communities to help complete the final phase of our \$10 million *Answering the Call* Campaign for innovation and excellence in Seniors and Veterans care. We are at just over \$7 million raised.

Funds raised will go toward three critical areas of transforming care for seniors; research and innovation, knowledge sharing and education and sustaining exceptional care.

## Applied Research Is the Magic Ingredient to Transforming Seniors Care

Research into seniors' care has been historically underfunded in Canada. One in five Canadians are over the age of 65 today and that number will triple in two decades. Now is the time for philanthropic support to kickstart the kind of highly focused, applied research in Seniors' care taking place at Perley Health today.

The Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care is ready to expand its research and develop even more evidence-based best practices. Innovations and knowledge we develop and share will benefit the healthcare system and ensure that government policymaking is based on evidence and best practices. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for seniors living in long-term care by improving the long-term care sector.

### Education in Best Practices Will Also Improve Seniors Care.

A key pillar of Perley Health's vision of transforming care for Seniors is educating and training the people who provide care to Seniors. Canada's long-term care sector is in dire need of widespread knowledge sharing of best-best practices in seniors' care, based on evidence.

Research and innovations developed at the Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care will improve the skills of today's long-term care providers and educate post-secondary students; who will care for future generations of Seniors.

## Exceptional Care Is At The Heart of Perley Health and our Campaign

Perley Health is the first choice for long-term care amongst families in the Ottawa region because of its tireless commitment to exceptional care for Seniors and Veterans.

Sustaining and enhancing Seniors' and Veterans' care and investing in the people who provide care at Perley Health will help fuel innovation and, in the future, bring exceptional care to long-term care across Canada.

We invite you to join us in *Answering the Call* to transform care for seniors here and across Canada.

Visit **answeringthecall.care** to find out more.

### Perley Health Foundation Answering the Call, Campaign Cabinet

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Perley Health CEO



## Together we improve the well-being of the people we serve.



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Perley Health is a unique and innovative campus of care. Home to more than 600 Seniors and Veterans living in independent apartments or receiving long-term care, Perley Health is also a centre for research, education, and clinical and therapeutic services.

Donors help ensure Seniors and Veterans can enjoy their best quality of life at every stage of the aging process.

### **Louise Mercier**

Foundation Board Chair

### Delphine Haslé

Foundation Executive Director

### **Margaret Tansey**

Perley Health Board Chair

### **Akos Hoffer**

Perley Health Chief Executive Officer

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### **Perley Health Foundation**

1750 Russell Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5Z6

Tel: 613.526.7173

Email: foundation@perleyhealth.ca

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