



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 16, 2020

## Province gives go-ahead for Ritz Villa construction

(Perth–Wellington) – Ritz Lutheran Villa has the green light to begin construction of their new \$24-million, 128 long-term care bed facility in Mitchell. Shovels are anticipated to be in the ground by September 2020.

“This is tremendous news for Ritz Villa and Mitchell Nursing Home residents, staff and volunteers,” said Perth–Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece. “It shows the province is serious about seeing this project through to completion.”

Ritz Lutheran Villa, now West Perth Village Seniors’ Community, will combine both facilities and build a completely new, 72,000-square-foot structure. Residents can expect to begin moving in by August 2022.

In a July 8 letter to David Murray, chairperson of the Ritz Lutheran Villa board of directors, the Ministry of Long-Term Care approved the project’s technical drawings and specifications. The project can now proceed to tender.

“This redevelopment project has been in the planning stage for over five years now, so we are thrilled to be able to start building!” said Murray.

“I want to congratulate David Murray, [Ritz Villa administrator] Jeff Renaud and their team for all their work in getting us to this point,” said Pettapiece. “I also want to thank West Perth council for their support.”

The new facility will help to provide even better care to residents, Renaud noted.

“Approving construction is an important step, as it helps us work toward eliminating the three-and-four bed wards that have proved to be so devastating to seniors living in older long-term care facilities in Ontario,” he said.

In late June, Pettapiece wrote to Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, to push for the approval of the technical drawings. He also discussed the project with her directly in the legislature.

“I know it’s been a long wait,” Pettapiece acknowledged. “But I am very pleased the minister responded to our latest request to approve the drawings and begin construction.

“Working with David and Jeff, I look forward to continue doing everything I can to support this project.”