

MONTHLY NEWS

# IN THE NEWS TODAY

WESENSE AT SENECA SENSE TECHNOLOGIES

## Senior Care- In the News – September 2019

Through WeSense, we strive to improve quality care in resident comfort and hygiene along with saving costs for the Administration and saving time for the Caregivers. We recognize that staff members are low in number amidst many residents and with our WeSense app, they have a new sidekick to help with managing the health of residents. With notifications, Caregivers will not forget to change soiled briefs on residents and they will change them only when necessary.

Unfortunately and fortunately, nursing homes are filling up. It is unfortunate due to the lack of Caregivers for the number of residents. It is fortunate because it means humans are living longer lives. All the history these residents have seen and experienced is incredible.

This just fuels our desire to preserve these residents' dignity while they enjoy their golden years. And WeSense at Seneca Sense isn't alone in this mission.

### Quebec, Canada

As high quality elderly care is our number one priority, it shocks us upon hearing of this class action lawsuit against Quebec nursing homes. This [Montreal Gazette article](#) by Aaron Derfel outlines that this is a "\$500-million suit [that] alleges systemic neglect and mistreatment of patients in long-term-care centres known as CHSLDs."

This article details further from the lead plaintiff how his breathing tube wasn't changed very often and there were errors in his medication. It also details how the home doesn't have that many staff members and those that are there are overworked.

This class action suit has brought attention to long-term care in Quebec and in this [other Montreal Gazette article by the same author](#) “that the government will set up a committee of experts to draft a policy on long-term care.” It is mentioned that this new bill is encouraged to be even stronger than the law in Ontario, Long-Term Care Homes Act, which includes a “residents’ bill of rights.”

### **Nova Scotia, Canada**

As Quebec province in Canada is trying to better elderly care management, Nova Scotia is also working to improve the care they provide. In [The Star article](#) by The Canadian Press, it discusses that “the Nova Scotia government is taking steps to address staff shortages at the province’s long-term care homes.”

The article goes on to discuss that “more staff were needed to address the needs of what the [expert] panel called ‘overstressed’ nursing homes.”

Two provinces, three if you already include legislation in Ontario, have acknowledged the need for more staff in these overworked nursing homes. Stressed nursing staff leads to unhappy residents. In order to help residents, we need to help Caregivers.

### **Queensland, Australia**

Outside of Canada, in Australia, a court is hearing out how an aged care facility on the Gold Coast has mistreated their residents in an [The Guardian article by Australian Associated Press](#). Unfortunately, the hearing produced that right at the closure of this facility, “63% of the high-care residents were malnourished and the rest were at risk of malnutrition.” This is utterly shocking and disturbing.

It was also mentioned that “staff did not manage continence properly,” which makes us here at Seneca Sense very upset to know that residents were treated this way.

In this particular case, the man in charge of the facility did say he was not equipped for running a nursing home. We are happy to hear him admit this as many might not do so due to embarrassment.

But, just as people want to save themselves the embarrassment, so do these residents and Caregivers. Both want to maintain their dignity: having too many residents per worker increases working stress for Caregivers and not receiving enough attention to hygienic needs increases unhealthy conditions as well as potential shame.

### **WeSense**

In Nova Scotia, a “new set of rules” will allow homes to “hire retired or internationally educated nurses who have met specific criteria to work” in order to gain more staff members for the amount of residents in these homes.

Sometimes the question of language has occurred especially if the nurses come from abroad. But with straightforward and easy processes, quality care will not be restricted. For example, with the WeSense app, anyone, no matter the first language or even second language of the user, the app is easy to navigate with clear icons. This is also the same with the WeSense pod as there are clear symbols for how to attach to the sensor and the brief.

With WeSense, the level of embarrassment for residents and Caregivers is reduced. WeSense gives more support to Caregivers and residents live in more hygienic conditions.

We look forward to producing more products to help with elderly care management, but the biggest step is the improvement of quality care in incontinence management. No matter the province, or country for that matter, no matter the language, no matter the home and resident, WeSense is here to help with this increasing concern across the globe.