

**Public Inquiry into the Safety
and Security of Residents in the
Long-Term Care Homes System**

The Honourable Eileen E. Gillese
Commissioner



**Commission d'enquête publique
sur la sécurité des résidents des
foyers de soins de longue durée**

L'honorable Eileen E. Gillese
Commissaire

**COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS ON THE RELEASE OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE TO GOVERN
THE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Commissioner Gillese

March 15, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

These remarks are intended to introduce the Rules of Procedure for the Inquiry's Public Hearings. I offer them by way of an overview and also to provide context for the Rules.

As those reading these remarks well know, this Inquiry was established because of the public outrage that followed the discovery of the heinous offences committed by Elizabeth Wettlaufer. Wettlaufer was a registered nurse working in Ontario's long-term care homes system who harmed and killed through the intentional, wrongful administration of insulin. The public demanded that steps be taken to prevent such tragedies from being repeated. Nothing short of a public inquiry could restore public confidence in the Ontario long-term care homes system.

The work of the Inquiry is being conducted in two parts.

400 University Avenue
Suite 1800C
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9
info@longtermcareinquiry.ca

400 Avenue University
Bureau 1800C
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2R9
info@longtermcareinquiry.ca

In Part 1, the Inquiry is inquiring into the events that led to the offences and the surrounding conditions and circumstances that allowed those offences to occur. The results of the Part 1 inquiries will be made available to the public through the Public Hearings, which will begin in June 2018. The Public Hearings are also designed to give the Participants the opportunity to examine, challenge and add to the results of the inquiries.

In Part 2, the Inquiry will conduct further research, information gathering, and consultations, all in aid of developing meaningful and viable recommendations on how to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The work of the Public Hearings is the foundation for Part 2 of the Inquiry.

II. THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

As will be readily apparent, the Public Hearings are a crucial step in ensuring a sound factual foundation for the development of the Inquiry's recommendations.

For the Public Hearings to be effective and expeditious, it is important that "ground rules" are established and communicated. The Rules of Procedure are those ground rules.

III. CREATION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Rules were developed after consultation with the Participants. The Participants were provided with draft Rules on February 1, 2018. They were asked to provide the Inquiry with their written comments and suggestions on the draft Rules by February 15, 2018. Counsel for the Participants and the contact persons for those organizations not represented by counsel were invited to a meeting with Inquiry counsel on February 5, 2018, to discuss the draft Rules and pose any questions they might have.

After considering the Participants' written comments and suggestions, the Rules were finalized.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Participants for their valuable comments and suggestions.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE RULES

These Rules dictate how the Public Hearings will be conducted and the responsibilities and rights of all those who will take part in them. Their purpose is to ensure that the Public Hearings operate smoothly, effectively, efficiently and fairly.

The Rules address such matters as: the principles guiding the work of the Public Hearings; where and when the Public Hearings will take place; the disclosure and production of documents; the nature of the information that the Inquiry will provide to the Participants in advance of the Public Hearings; the manner in which the Participants can respond to that information; the method by which the Participants can seek to introduce evidence at the Public Hearings; an outline of how evidence will be led at the Public Hearings; and, procedural safeguards.

Importantly, the Rules also invite the Participants to include, as part of their closing submissions, suggestions on how similar offences might be avoided in the future.

V. CONCLUSION

The work of this Inquiry is a matter of vital public concern. The residents in long-term care homes and the clients of home care service providers are beloved members of our communities. They are also some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. They deserve our respect and support and the confidence of knowing that they are not at risk of the infliction of intentional harm when receiving their medications.

I invite you to learn more by attending the Public Hearings, in person or by watching the daily webcast of the Public Hearings. You will be able to access the webcast and the

transcripts of the Public Hearings through the Inquiry website:
<http://longtermcareinquiry.ca>.

I would conclude by again inviting members of the public to share their suggestions on this important matter by writing to the Inquiry through its website.

Commissioner Eileen E. Gillese