

# COVID<sup>IN THE</sup> HOUSE OF OLD



## Winnipeg: May 2-01

Emmanuel: My dad's story is just one of so many. It is, my family story, just one of so many, right? And not everyone is wanting to talk about it. Not everyone can get to that place. So, I tell my story for those who can't.

My name is Emmanuel Callisto but everyone calls me Manny. I'm a semi-retired schoolteacher and school administrator. My biggest job now is being a grandpa to my 10-month grandson.

We were very conscious that putting our story out there might help. Again, difficult, it's difficult to see your dad on TV, and, you know, on a national news and your sister and your family pictures are there. Like, that's hard to do, because this is your personal tragedy, right? But at the same time, as I'm doing today, telling my story in a public way, because I think if we don't tell the stories because it's hard, right, it's hard to talk about these things. Then things, things will not change. And I believe that this exhibit and the stories that are going to be told, will hopefully be heard by somebody who can make a difference somewhere. Some politician, some policymakers, some... enough people, a tipping point, where they say we need to rethink care homes. We need to take the profit out of them. We needed to make so that it feels like home. Because as we want to move to a home care model that's just not possible for everybody.

Not every home had an outbreak. Not every home lost 56 residents. Not every home let the virus in the way that some homes did. Others were able to protect the residents, because they probably had were better staffed. Not that people cared more or less, just that they were better staffed. And they had the resources they needed to keep the virus out. And they were very strict about the rules of who comes in and comes out and all these things, right. And so, I'm conscious of that all the time. Because I think as bad as my dad's care home was on the other hand, we have homes that are doing things well. So how do we how do we learn from homes and even countries where they do it better? And how do we do that in Manitoba because our system is definitely in need of repair, very much so. It's crumbling in some places.

So, I'm glad that you're creating an opportunity for people to tell stories. And that is so important for their personal healing, their family healing. But it's also important for hopefully what will be ultimately advocacy, right? To advocate on behalf of people who really don't have a voice.

Our elders have all this wisdom, have a lot to share, a life's worth of wisdom. They deserve everything to ensure that their last winter of their life, is spent in the best way possible, surrounded by love and people who care about and will look after their needs to ensure that they are well taken care of.