

Ontario Home Care Association applauds announcement to support doctors to make house calls

August 29, 2011 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcomes the announcement by Minister of Health & Long-Term Care Deb Matthews to provide home visits by family doctors. Supporting physicians to conduct home visits addresses an important need in the home care system.

OHCA has long advocated for the full array of health and social care services in the home to support good health outcomes for people. The Association believes that primary care and home care are foundational components of the broader health care system and that home and social care services support good care in the community. These services include access to family physicians, nursing, therapies, case managers, community pharmacists, personal support as well as transportation and meals. Each interdisciplinary team member has a unique body of knowledge and scope of practice which must be respected and leveraged in order to maximize effectiveness for client care. The team serves individuals at home and connects them to the system resources they require.

An efficient and effective home care system appropriately utilizes and integrates all members of the team to achieve value and to assist Ontarians who wish to receive care at home and remain independent. Enabling all team members to provide home care services ensures that the outcomes realized are greater than the sum of the parts – in other words, value is realized. The OHCA continues to encourage the government to sustain and increase the amount and flexibility of home care services.

-30-

About the OHCA

The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is a membership association representing providers of quality home care services from across Ontario. OHCA members represent an estimated 25,000 staff collectively serving 300,000 Ontarians per year. OHCA works with families as integral partners in the delivery of home care services and as such estimates that 1.2 million Ontarians are impacted by members. OHCA is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of the home and community health care sector by helping to shape health care policy, supporting members to excel, and being a leading source of information on home and community care. OHCA members are accredited through Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or registered with the International Standards Association (ISO).

For more information, contact:

Susan D. VanderBent, Executive Director

Phone: 905-543-9474

Fax: 905-545-1568

Email: suevan@homecareontario.ca

For the latest in news and information about the home care sector in Ontario, subscribe to the Ontario Home Care Association's "House Call" at www.homecareontario.ca.