

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Home Care Nursing Practice Council, a joint collaboration between the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) and the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA), is pleased to announce the re-launch of a Home Care Nurse Leadership website - an exciting resource designed specifically to support new graduate nurses and those nurses new to home health care in their practice of community nursing. First launched in March 2010, the website has been updated with a fresh image, new URL, and an evaluation component.

The original funding for this project was generously provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) New Graduate Guarantee (NGG) initiative. The re-design of the Home Care Nurse Education Website was funded by OHCA and OCSA.

The Home Care Nursing Practice Council, formed in 2010 with nursing leaders from across the home and community care sector, will provide ongoing leadership for the Home Care Nurse Education Project.

"As Co-chairs of the Council, we are excited to launch this new website – built by nurses for nurse leaders in Ontario's home and community care sector!" said Nancy Lefebre, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, and Cheryl Reid-Haughian, ParaMed Home Health Care.

The goal of this online learning tool is to inform, educate and develop new nurse leaders in the community sector. Specific objectives of this initiative are to provide additional supports for leadership development for new graduates and those nurses new to home health care (RN and RPN); to promote excellence in clinical practice in the sector; disseminate knowledge and leadership development province-wide; and provide a starting point for building and sustaining a sector-specific Community of Practice. Individual learning modules on communications skills, advanced facilitation skills and systems thinking are accompanied by videos demonstrating these competencies.

The website is available to registered nurses and registered practical nurses interested in learning more about nursing in the home health sector. In order to use the site, an account must be created. Click on "Click here to Register" and follow the instructions.

The website can be accessed at www.homecarenurseeducation.ca.

For more information:

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BACKGROUNDER attached

About the Home Care Nursing Practice Council

The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) and the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) Home Care Nursing Practice Council was established to provide advice to the two Associations on home and community care nursing issues such as:

- Exploration and application of clinical best practice in home care delivery
- Pursuing joint opportunities for enhancing nursing health human resources in home and community care (e.g. government funding for recruitment and retention strategies)
- Informing the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, the CCACs, and LHINs regarding policies that impact client care and nursing practice
- Opportunities to provide home and community care nursing representation at provincial and LHIN tables if requested to do so
- Facilitate research/project opportunities as they are presented.

GOAL:

Nursing Leaders from Service Provider Agencies (SPAs) have a wealth of knowledge regarding nursing practice. The OHCA/OCSA Nursing Practice Council (NPC) is a forum to share information on home care nursing issues such as clinical best practice, enhancing nursing health human resources in home and community care, e.g. government funding for recruitment and retention, and to advise the OHCA and OCSA on the implementation of new nursing practices and opportunities in the sector.

For more information about the Council:

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