

Ontario Home Care Association acknowledges fiscal pressures

November 8, 2011 – The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) acknowledges the fiscal pressures facing the province as outlined yesterday by Premier McGuinty.

Evidence has demonstrated the potential of home care as a cost effective and care effective strategy to support the frail and vulnerable in their homes and OHCA commends efforts to shift care away from inappropriate settings. OHCA supports strategies to facilitate the right service at the right time by the right provider. The expanded mandate of the Community Care Access Centres is vital to improving coordinated service decisions and efforts to improve and streamline ‘alternate level of care’ (ALC) designations in the province.

The OHCA has long advocated for a shift in health care focus to the home and community and recently offered recommendations to the Drummond Commission which will facilitate the achievement of a sustainable health system. Recommendations include: shifts in funding allocations, multi-year allocations in order to assist in planning; strategies to reward excellence in care delivery; recognition of family caregivers; and the adoption of technologies to leverage care and independence at home.

It is time for tough decisions and courageous leadership. OHCA will continue to offer its support and will work with partners to achieve a sustainable health system in Ontario.

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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.