



Helping People Live at home

## ***AN OPEN LETTER TO THE F/P/T HEALTH MINISTERS***

**September 4, 2003**

### **ONTARIO SERVICE PROVIDERS SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE BASKET OF SERVICES FOR NATIONAL HOME & COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS**

**The Ontario Community Support Association, (OCSA), and the Ontario Home Health Care Providers Association, (OHHCPA), urge the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Health Ministers:**

**To recognize the critical importance of chronic, longer term home and community care in the National Home Care basket of services; and**

**To ensure that any money saved by provinces in acute home care services as a result of a federal transfer of funds be spent on providing the other critical home and community care services needed by Canadians.**

**OCSA and OHHCPA applaud the new paper released by Dr. Marcus Hollander: “*Unfinished Business: The Case for Chronic Home Care Services, A Policy Paper*”, which argues that throughout the past number of years:**

**“[W]e have evidence that long term home care, within an integrated model of care, has the potential to be a significant contributor to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Canadian health care system....What is needed to achieve this goal is the political will to shift the current policy on home care, and continuing care, and to take the appropriate actions to improve our health care system.”<sup>1</sup>**

**We urge the F/P/T governments to work cooperatively to develop a set of comprehensive national home and community care services that Canada can showcase to the rest of the world.**

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**The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Home Health Care Providers' Association (OHHCPA) represent all direct service providers of home and community care services in the Province of Ontario. We are proud to deliver services to over 1,000,000 Ontarians every year.**

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<sup>1</sup> Hollander, M. (August 2003), *Unfinished Business: The Case for Chronic Home Care Services, A Policy Paper*, Victoria, B.C., p.9.