

IMPROVING SENIORS' CARE THROUGH IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH FINDINGS AND BEST PRACTICES

The McGuinty government is helping ensure that the latest research findings and best practices are used in the direct care of seniors in long-term care homes and seniors' homes by building a Seniors' Health Research Transfer Network and hiring eight best practice guidelines regional co-ordinators.

Seniors' Health Research Transfer Network (\$1.67 million)

The government is providing a total of \$1.67 million in funding to four healthcare organizations to form a Seniors' Health Research Transfer Network, which will support putting health research into practice in geriatric care and involving front-line providers in setting research priorities.

The RBJ Schlegel – University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging (RIA) in Waterloo and Elisabeth Bruyère Research Institute (EBRI) in Ottawa will take the lead in building the network, and will work with the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto and The Aphasia Institute of Toronto. RIA and EBRI are each receiving \$500,000 in funding to:

- Provide workshops, on-line access to literature and best practices, and foster links between researchers, seniors and caregivers.
- Support health care providers – especially nurse practitioners connected with Community Care Access Centres and psycho-geriatric consultants working with behaviour management issues – to promote the use of new research to improve the care of the elderly in long-term care homes, retirement homes and their own homes.

The Aphasia Institute was funded \$177,000 to provide communication tools to improve the quality of life for people with aphasia (loss of speech or understanding of language due to brain damage). This includes the Resident Bill of Rights project where a pictographic representation of residents' rights is being posted in long-term care homes across the province.

The Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care is being funded \$500,000 and will be providing support to families caring for senior members who have dementia, as well as providing tools to physicians in long term care homes to help prevent adverse drug events.

Best Practice Guidelines Regional Co-ordinators (\$850,000)

The government is providing \$850,000 to hire eight regional co-ordinators to ensure implementation of the RNAO Best Practice Guidelines in long-term care homes. The guidelines include pain management, treating diabetes, screening for dementia and depression, preventing falls and crisis intervention.