



May 10, 2005

Editor
Toronto Star

Dear Sir: Re: "A typical day for VON nurses: 10 hours straight, no lunch break"

No home care nurse in Ontario should be expected to work "10 hours straight with no lunch break". In the home care procurement process, no company is successful unless they ensure that the working conditions of staff meet basic Ontario Labour Standards. In fact, meeting these standards is a critical indicator of success in the competitive process.

The Ontario Home Care Association believes that nurses are valued professionals who are committed to taking care of all clients, regardless of their level of acuity. Within the home care sector, nurses can also have flexible hours that allow them to create a working environment that also meets their need to balance work and home life. This is what makes home care nurses special and unique. Recent research by University of Toronto proves that since the inception of a competitive process, quality of care to clients has improved.

Sincerely,

Susan D. VanderBent
Executive Director