

OHCA 2008/2009 Activity Highlights



- **Advocating for funding and expansion** for the publicly funded home care sector and educating the public about the role and value of home care service provision that is widely offered privately by OHCA members
- Taking home care industry perspective to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health Promotion, Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Finance on province-wide issues such as the **LHIN Legislation, Pandemic Influenza planning, employment standards, information technology plans, WSIB, health human resources strategy, elder abuse prevention, aging at home strategy and chronic disease prevention and management strategy**
- Reinforcing OHCA's message that provincial resources be used to **support a strong home care system that is procured through a process based on quality that is fair, equitable and transparent**
- Representing members' interests at the Community Provider Associations Committee (formerly known as SPA) – comprising of the OACCAC, OCSA, OHCA and others, to address issues relating to procurement of home care services; information technology, health human resources and accreditation.
- Educating the public and other stakeholders about **the role and value of OHCA member providers as a quality choice servicing all in home care needs** through our website; electronic newsletter – House Call; MPP campaigns; meetings with LHINs; presentations at conferences
- Participating on the MOHLTC **Health Human Resources Expert Panel for home care**
- Conducting a **MPP campaign** in order to ensure that elected representatives are aware of the importance of home care to the health system
- **Accessing government funding for education for frontline staff**, such as the Ontario government's Alzheimer's training program
- Participating on the **Ministry of Labour Section 21 Committee** to ensure that the unique occupational health challenges inherent in delivering care in the home are understood.
- **Representing members** at numerous functions including **political functions, conferences**
- Presenting at the **Ontario Ministry of Finance Pre-Budget Consultation** sessions to advocate for funding for the home and community care sector
- Hosting a home health care Symposium
- Commenting on policy and legislation that impacts home care through media releases, position statements, presentations and review of documents
- Chairing the **Connectivity Committee** for the Continuing Care e-health Council
- Member of the **Steering Committee** for the new **Home Care Research and Knowledge Exchange Chair**; and monitoring and supporting **research relevant to home care** industry to ensure that the Ontario Home Care Association's members are given equal opportunity to participate
- **Responding to government consultations** on a range of issues that impact the home care sector – workplace violence, needlestick injuries, elect-to-work
- Working with the provincial **Nursing Secretariat** to ensure home care representation on the **new graduate nursing initiative, PDA project** and **nursing leadership resource development project**
- Maintaining strong **relationships with LHINs, CCACs, OCFP, OHA, CHCA** and all other health care associations in Ontario through the OHPA – Ontario Health Providers Alliance

- Representing home care across the health system – **including, mental health, acute care, primary care, palliative care, pediatric care, chronic disease management and cancer care**

The Ontario Home Care Association also provides members a number of other benefits, such as:

- Offering **preferential rates** for employee benefits
- Offering **discounts to members** for workshops, conferences, publications
- Offering **fee reduction** for members seeking accreditation through the **Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation**
- Creating an **Ontario Home Care Association Balanced Scorecard Report to the Community** based on the Association’s Standards for Home Health Care Service Agencies and Quality Template. This gives credibility to the sector and its pursuit of excellence in care delivery
- Being a source of information about government activities that can affect member operations such as the MOHLTC restructuring, CCAC alignment, Ontario E-health strategy and the primary health care strategy. **Opportunities to ensure that any government funding is directed to all affected Association members is always explored**
- Providing web linkages to key health care sites including the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Ontario Hospital Association, Ontario Medical Association portal pages, LHINs, CCACs; and sites that impact home care providers through the members only resource pages
- Providing **members’ only access** to a wide range of information within human resources; operations; research; education; government/policy; information management
- Promoting member services through a customized search on our website for the purpose of finding a home care provider; finding a home care employer; addressing questions from the general public through the **Home Care and Me** information page; and a page dedicated to family caregivers - **Only Association members are provided as direct links to the consumer or prospective employee**
- Providing members with **networking opportunities** and access to health care leaders and decision makers
- Acquiring preferential pricing from Allstream for members to access **voice over internet protocol (VOIP)**
- **Publishing Association position statements and papers** independently and in collaboration with other sectors within health care
- Web cast to members providing an industry update
- Producing a bi-monthly Executive Director’s report which **highlights and analyzes new and emerging issues that can help members position themselves within the health care community**
- Providing packages of **current and relevant information affecting health care providers**
- Producing a **regular electronic news update** that reaches a wide spectrum of health care providers, government and the public
- **Marketing members’ services** to referral sources
-and much more.