



Extended Medical Leave Supports Palliative Care at Home

Dec 18, 2006:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) Board of Directors commends the McGuinty government for broadening the definition of caregivers for Family Medical Leave.

The Family Medical Leave gives employees up to eight weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave to care for a gravely ill family member, when there is a significant risk of death within 26 weeks.

“This policy demonstrates the government’s recognition of the important role of family and caregivers in caring for a gravely ill person,” said Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director. “Ontarians would prefer, where possible, to die at home surrounded by loved ones. This preference can now be realized by those who were initially compromised by the limited definition of family.”

“The home care system depends on family and friends to support the individual at home,” said Lori Lord, OHCA President. “We are pleased that through this policy change, Ontarians can be relieved from the worry of job security as they take time to be with their loved one.”

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The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, represents Canadian home care service organizations that deliver quality home care to an estimated 300,000 Ontarians annually. The OHCA advocates for a strong, dependable and accessible home care system for Ontarians. OHCA members are accredited through the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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