



OHCA Comments on Reported Loss of Home Care Services in Hamilton

September 15, 2006: - The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) expresses concern over the reported loss of home care services to people in Hamilton as CCACs must now put strategies in place to balance 2006/07 budgets. The demand for home care is rising as more and more people require support after hospital stays and want to receive care at home to live as independently as possible. Also, more Ontarians want to age in place and avoid premature institutionalization in long term care homes.

"There is a critical need to respond to the rising consumer demand for home care as Ontario transitions to a new 'system' of care", said Lori Lord, new President of the Association. Sue VanderBent, Executive Director of OHCA stated "Budget planning of all individual providers (acute care, long term care, home and community care) must now be made in the context of the larger impacts across the entire continuum of care. Whatever decisions the CCACs make today will have huge impacts on home care referral sources and people needing 'wrap-around' health care as they transition through the system".

The OHCA is supportive of the government's direction to create Local Health Integration Networks and the role the LHINs will have in ensuring a 'systems' approach to budget allocations and financial strategies to balance health care needs and fiscal efficiencies. OHCA urges the LHINs to work quickly to ensure that fiscal decisions made in 2006/07 recognize the importance of maintaining a strong home care system in Ontario.

The OHCA represents Canadian home care service organizations that collectively employ over 30,000 staff and deliver quality home care to an estimated 250,000 Ontarians annually. 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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