



OHCA welcomes Smitherman's return to the health portfolio

October 31, 2007, Hamilton – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) commends the McGuinty government for returning George Smitherman to the post of Minister of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). In so doing, Ontarians can be assured that the transformation agenda for health will be sustained.

“Minister Smitherman has shepherded the province through a significant change to the way health care is administered and it is therefore heartening to know that he will be continuing to exercise his leadership over this important sector of government,” said Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director. “By continuing in the health portfolio, Ontarians are assured that the momentum toward integration achieved by the government, the 14 LHINs and system partners can be maintained,” she added.

OHCA believes that Ontario's health care system must continue to move toward a greater emphasis on health promotion and illness prevention, and in so doing, acknowledge the imperative to keep individuals at home for as long as possible. The 'aging at home' strategy announced by Minister Smitherman is an opportunity to test the system's ability to tip the balance of care to the community, where Ontarians want to remain for as long as possible. Minister Smitherman understands that there is much work to be done; and the OHCA commits to working closely with the MOHLTC and health system partners in order to ensure that the citizens of Ontario can continue to be able to live independently and with dignity in their own homes.

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About OHCA

The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is a membership association representing providers of quality home care services from across Ontario. OHCA is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of the home and community health care sector by helping to shape health care policy, supporting members to excel, and being a leading source of information on home and community care. OHCA members are accredited through the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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