



OHCA supports the Ontario government's priorities to improve confidence in health care

April 24, 2008:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcomes the comments made by Minister Smitherman at the Aging at Home Innovation Expo. The Minister outlined two priorities for the Ontario government related to continuing health care improvement – reducing wait times in emergency departments and improving access to family health care.

“Home care is key to improving wait times in emergency rooms because these services will assist people and their families to go home safely and with confidence” said OHCA Executive Director, Sue VanderBent. Increased funding to the sector will be necessary to support more Ontarians to receive care after leaving the ER. In addition to increased funding, OHCA recommends that the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care encourage innovative and flexible approaches to home care programs, including the increase of hours available to individuals.

New and innovative delivery home care options that include electronic point of care documentation; digital wound photography; telephone support and specialized clinic-based care will relieve the hospital burden for those who are able to stay in the community. A sustainable home care system that truly provides support for people in their homes is the only way to effectively break the cycle of non-acute utilization of emergency departments.

OHCA will continue to work with the OHA and other health system partners to advance solutions to provide “the right care at the right place” and ultimately increase Ontarians confidence in their health care system.

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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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