

2009 Fall Economic Statement sobering but an opportunity to continue the transformation

October 23, 2009 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) acknowledges the challenging fiscal situation confronting the province. While the McGuinty government has committed to undertaking a rigorous review of government spending, OHCA was pleased to note the government's acknowledgment of the importance of sustaining key services, including health care.

By continuing to support the transformation agenda and transitioning the way that health care is funded and delivered, more Ontarians will be able to realize their goal of remaining at home for as long as possible. Tipping the balance of care provision in favour of the community will serve to contain more expensive health care options. Maintaining individuals at home keeps them contributing to the economic health of their communities through their tax contributions and expenditures for goods and services.

Notwithstanding the government's commitment to health care, OHCA believes that it is incumbent upon all sectors of the health system to thoughtfully engage in testing their practices and identifying the true value for patients delivered by providers. Health investment must be tied to the health outcomes realized both by the individual and the population served over the care cycle.

OHCA will continue to work with its health system partners and the Ontario government to realize a quality system of care that delivers the right service at the right time and place. Ultimately, OHCA believes that public funds should enable Ontarians of all ages to live and age successfully in their own homes and communities.

-30-

About the OHCA

The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA), *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is an organization of home health and social care service providers. Association members deliver nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy and medical equipment and supplies in the home to individuals of all ages. OHCA members are contracted by all three levels of government, Community Care Access Centres, insurance companies, institutions, corporations and private individuals. OHCA members are accredited through the Accreditation Canada and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

For more information, contact:

Susan D. VanderBent, Executive Director

Phone: 905-543-9474 Fax: 905-545-1568

e-mail: suevan@homecareontario.ca

For the latest in news and information about the home care sector in Ontario, subscribe to the Ontario Home Care Association's "House Call" at www.homecareontario.ca.