

Ontario Should Heed New Dementia Projections

January 4, 2010 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) calls on the government to seriously review the staggering new statistics released today in the Alzheimer Society’s report, *Rising Tide: the Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*. To ensure both system sustainability and quality of life for a growing number of aging Ontarians, it is imperative to ensure that those with dementia can remain independent at home for as long as possible.

While the health care transformation in Ontario is intended to ensure that people receive care as close to home as possible, the Rising Tide report highlights a new order of magnitude that must be addressed in both policy and funding. OHCA believes that an investment in home and community care that directly impacts client care and builds on current levels of service needs to be made. Additionally, a comprehensive strategy to provide family caregivers with meaningful support must also be adopted. Increasing the amount and flexibility of respite for families is an especially important strategic investment in dementia care. This investment would provide the vital few hours to assist family caregivers to continue to support their loved ones in their own homes.

Ontarians want to remain at home as they age and family caregivers are key to supporting this plan. It is vital to stay ahead of the rising demographic wave and prepare for the future of health care delivered in the home and community care setting. OHC A will continue to work with the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care to develop innovative and responsive solutions to address this anticipated need.

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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).

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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.