

## **Throne speech demonstrates leadership in health care reform**

March 9, 2010 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) applauds the direction on health taken in yesterday’s Speech from the Throne. The challenge for the government is to balance priorities and initiate needed changes that will provide a true system of care across the health continuum for the citizens of our province.

OHCA supports greater accountability for improved patient care from policy to frontline delivery. Honouring patient choice as to where care is accessed will require a shift in health priorities. A promise to ensure that “money will follow the patient” demonstrates the government’s appreciation of the need to address system issues in the context of the larger impacts across the entire continuum of care.

OHCA believes that a strong, reliable and accessible home care system will allow Ontarians to recover and/or manage an illness with dignity in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by loved ones. It is time for health policy and funding to support the desire of Ontarians to receive more care closer to home. OHCA welcomes the proposed conversation on health and commits to working closely with the government in order to realize the dream of world class care for Ontarians.

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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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