

OHCA supports Alzheimer Advisory Act, 2010

May 19, 2010 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) calls on MPPs to support the Alzheimer Advisory Council Act, 2010 introduced by, Donna Cansfield, MPP for Etobicoke Centre. The Bill is an important step in the process of not only increasing awareness, but also in acknowledging the needs of individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Ontarians want to age at home in familiar surroundings for as long as possible. To realize that goal, the government must provide a well resourced home and community care sector that supports both the care recipient and the caregiver. Research shows that a close relationship between a family caregiver – especially if a spouse – and a person with Alzheimer’s disease appears to slow the progress of the condition.¹ Providing the full array of home care services, including access to nursing, therapies, and personal support will ensure that a spousal caregiver is able to keep a loved one safe and independent at home for as long as possible.

An Advisory Council will facilitate the creation of recommendations on Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia as well as offering leadership in the development and implementation of a province-wide strategy. The Council has the potential to create a solid foundation for the care and support of the aging population in Ontario.

The health system transformation in Ontario is grounded in organizing care around the person and improving the health outcomes of individuals. By tipping the balance of care provision in favour of the community, Ontarians of all ages will be able to confidently cope at home. The Alzheimer Advisory Council Act, 2010 is one way of building a sustainable health care system that achieves this critical paradigm shift.

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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.

¹ Norton MC, Piercy KW, Rabins PV, Green RC, Breitner JCS, Ostbye T *et al.* Caregiver recipient closeness and symptom progression in Alzheimer disease: the Cache County dementia progression study. *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 2009;64B:560-8