

## **Home Care must be a priority**

March 28, 2011 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) concurs with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) assertion, in its release on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>, that health care must be a priority in Ontario and adds that home care must take precedence on the agenda. Reducing the number of Alternate Level of Care patients in the health system can be realized by providing families with comprehensive support from the home care team.

Primary care and home care are foundational to the health care system as it is in communities across the province where Ontarians receive the majority of their health care. OHCA supports the investments to increase the numbers of family doctors in the province and advocates for strengthened linkages with home care providers in order to ensure responsive effective care. A strong community-based system that appropriately utilizes and integrates all members of the team is essential to support good health outcomes.

Providing quality health care to Ontarians is a fundamental principle on which the government of Ontario bases health care policy development. The *Excellent Care for All Bill* serves as an important touchstone for all health care organizations to demonstrate accountability for quality and to reinforce principles of organizing care around the individual. A robust home care system will improve the quality of life, achieve better health outcomes for Ontarians, and reduce the need for care in the most expensive parts of the health system.

OHCA recognizes and values the important contribution of the interdisciplinary team which includes family physicians and will continue to work with all system partners to realize an improved health system for Ontarians.

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### **About the 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 members represent an estimated 25,000 staff collectively serving 300,000 Ontarians per year. OHCA works with families as integral partners in the delivery of home care services and as such estimates that 1.2 million Ontarians are impacted by members. 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 Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or registered with 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](http://www.homecareontario.ca).