

OHCA commends investment in community services sector

March 30, 2011 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) commends the government for its continued commitment to care at home as announced in the 2011 Budget tabled by the Honourable Dwight Duncan, yesterday. Increasing government funding to the community by approximately three per cent annually will help manage acute care costs by freeing up hospital beds and unclogging emergency rooms. More importantly, it will mean that people at risk for loss of independence because they need more help than is currently available in the health care system will be able remain safe at home with appropriate support.

For the overwhelming majority who prefer to remain in their community, home care service is more desirable, cost effective and health effective. By 'tipping the balance' to the home and community sector the sustainability of the whole health system will be more readily achieved and Ontarians will confidently receive "the right care at right time in the right place".

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 in the community and will continue to work with all system partners to realize the right balance of care in order to keep Ontarians at home.

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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.