



## **Ontario Home Care Association By-Law Change - Backgrounder**

May 25, 2006 – At the Annual General Meeting the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) members voted overwhelmingly to amend the Association by-laws to be more inclusive of home care providers regardless of corporate charter.

This change in membership criteria is the result of feedback from members and many health care partners who believe there is a need to eliminate boundaries and enable the advancement of home care as integral to the development of a balanced health care system.

A year ago, at the OHCA's 2005 Annual General Meeting, members were supportive of the growing visibility and credibility of the OHCA and gave a strong message to the Board that the time has come for the Association to provide a broader leadership direction for the entire home care sector, embracing all types of service providers. Members indicated that they wanted the Association to be recognized and valued for its role representing all quality providers of home health care to Ontarians. Further, members said that they believed that by opening the membership to all types of providers, the OHCA would grow in strength and stature and be better positioned to support acceptance of the growing role of home care. Members also believed that the inclusion of other service providers would ensure a greater 'voice' for home care during the Ontario transformation agenda. To that end, the Board embarked on a review of the opportunities and challenges inherent in making such a significant change to the Association's membership criteria.

The by-law change, that is immediately effective, means that membership criteria for the Ontario Home Care Association will be based solely on standards of performance and quality indicators.

For more information about membership, contact:

Marg McAlister, Membership Services  
Ontario Home Care Association  
(P) 519-473-0198 (F) 519-471-8461  
e-mail: [membership@homecareontario.ca](mailto:membership@homecareontario.ca)  
website: [www.homecareontario.ca](http://www.homecareontario.ca)

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