



OHCA Position Statement

on

Access to Home Care Service Delivery in Ontario

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) endorses the principles of the *Canada Health Act* and confirms the values of the Canadian health care system. This system enables a range of essential health care services available to all citizens of Canada on the basis of need, not ability to pay. Across Canada, the provision of home care is not an insured service included under the *Canada Health Act*. Instead, each province has a unique system of home care delivery that is publicly funded, administered and delivered by both the public system and private sector organizations.¹ The *Canada Health Act* does not prohibit the provision of care by private providers through the use of public funds and accordingly providers in the private sector have delivered care to Canadians since the inception of Medicare.²

The OHCA endorses Ontario's vision of "a health care system that helps keep people healthy, gets them good care when they are sick and will be there for our children and grandchildren".³

The OHCA advocates for the funding and resourcing of a strong, publicly funded home care system in Ontario. In this system, individual home care service plans are determined by Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) and delivered through the service provider organizations chosen through a transparent procurement process.

The OHCA supports the role and value of home care organizations delivering care outside the publicly funded and administered system. Currently, in Ontario, all home

¹ Federal Provincial Territorial Advisory Committee on Health Services Working Group on Continuing Care FPTGCC (2000b). Federal funding of health care is contingent on provincial adherence to the following five principles which are at the core of the Canada Health Act: public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility. "The fifth principle, public administration does not mean that there should be no private sector delivery of health care. The public administration principle refers to the requirement that, for the purposes of administrative efficiency, the system should be a single payor model, with the payor being a provincial government". (Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, *The Health of Canadians – The Federal role, Volume Four Issues and Options*, xiv: September 2001)

² The Health of Canadians – The Federal Role: xiv:Vol 4:200 Standing Senate Committee Report on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, 2001

³ Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Vision Statement 2005

care providers offer home care services beyond publicly-funded levels in order to respond to the growing needs of individual Ontarians.

The OHCA believes that all home care service providers must be held equally accountable for the delivery of the highest standard of care to Ontarians. The majority of OHCA members are accredited with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) and/or registered with the International Standards Organization (ISO).

OHCA Board of Directors, September 2001

OHCA Reviewed and Reaffirmed, June 2004

OHCA Reviewed and Reaffirmed, November 2006

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. Ontario Home Care Association members are contracted by all three levels of government, Community Care Access Centres, insurance companies, institutions, corporations and private individuals.

www.homecareontario.ca