

## **OHCA urges all federal parties to commit to home care**

September 18, 2008:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) believes that home care is critical for Ontarians and advocates for the creation of a strong, reliable and accessible home care system which fully supports Ontarians to remain independent at home for as long as possible. On behalf of the members, OHCA is pleased to see that home care has been introduced into the federal election discussion.

Earmarking federal dollars for home care is an effective way of ensuring that the wishes of Canadians, from coast to coast, for more care at home is realized. Direct funding for home care positions provinces to administer programs that suit their population needs recognizing that people of all ages benefit from home care.

From the Ontario perspective, the OHCA is pleased to note the expansion of home and community care as integral to Ontario's health care transformation agenda. The MOHLTC has increased its commitment to the growing need for short-term flexible home care and has undertaken to build a well resourced proactive primary care system that optimizes the contribution of the entire home and community health care team (family physicians, community pharmacists, nurses, therapists, personal, home and mental health support, and palliative expertise).

Attention has been paid to home care improvements in Ontario. However, as in other jurisdictions, there is much more work to do. Investment by the federal government will mean that Ontarians of all ages can remain independent at home for as long as possible.

OHCA encourages all parties to commit to resourcing home care so that Canadians can access "the right care at the right place by the right person" and have increased confidence in one of our most precious assets - our health care system.

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### **About 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 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 and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

### **For more information, contact:**

Susan D. VanderBent

Executive Director

Phone: 905-543-9474

Email: [suevan@homecareontario.ca](mailto:suevan@homecareontario.ca)

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