



Ontario Home Care Association Applauds PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) Awards

May 14, 2008 :- The Board of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) strongly supports and applauds the McGuinty government's decision to award hand-held computer devices known as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to up to 2,000 front-line nurses in Ontario. The initiative is part of the work of HealthForceOntario to achieve the goal of ensuring that Ontario has the right number and mix of health care providers – now and into the future.

PDAs provide nurses with instant access to a range of clinical tools that allow them to quickly diagnose and counsel patients at the point of care with a few simple clicks. By using technology such as a PDA much time is saved, allowing nurses to spend more time with their clients. PDAs will be loaded with information about drug databases, medical dictionaries, best practice guidelines and reference material related to care and service delivery to clients.

“PDAs are especially useful in the home care sector, where nurses work independently and autonomously visiting people in their own homes and workplaces”, said Sue VanderBent, Executive Director, OHCA. “Many of our members are involved with the project and we believe that it will enhance the quality of care given to thousands of Ontarians through our growing home 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).

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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.