

## **OHCA welcomes comments supporting investment in home care from the Ontario Hospital Association**

February 4, 2008:- The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcomes the comments regarding investment in home care made last week (Jan 28<sup>th</sup>) by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. As part of the OHA 2008 Pre-Budget Presentation, Board Chair Mark Rochon, and President and CEO Tom Closson called on the government to “ease the pressure on hospitals by expanding capacity in [other parts] of the system” – suggesting home support as one of the areas needing additional funding.

OHCA has long advocated for a well resourced and responsive home care system in order to enable people to recuperate at home. In its position statement - *Home Care's Role in Addressing the ALC Challenge* (July 2007); and in its pre-budget submission (January 8<sup>th</sup>), the OHCA encouraged the government to continue the integration of the health system; the fostering of collaborative initiatives across the system and the balancing of funding in order to achieve more care at home.

In addition to increased funding, OHCA recommends that the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care encourage innovative and flexible approaches to home care programs. New delivery options that include remote monitoring; telephone support; clinic based care and approaches that are more proactive are vital to providing more effective community based care, and relieving the hospital burden for those who are able to be at home.

OHCA will continue to work with the OHA and other health system partners to advance solutions that will provide Ontarians with “the right care at the right place” and ultimately enable a more effective health 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 the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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

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