

## **OHCA applauds investment in home and community**

May 19, 2009 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is pleased with today's announcement from the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to expand the Aging at Home program and invest in home care to help more seniors live independently.

"Continued investment in home care is vital to ensuring a successful transformation of the health system and it is encouraging to witness the Ministry's continued support", said Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director.

The Aging at Home program coupled with well resourced home care will tip the balance of care provision in favour of the community so that Ontarians of all ages who are 'on the fringe' of admission to a facility, or who turn to acute care for primary care support, can receive care and stay at home with confidence. Home care is integral to preventing the need for emergency room presentation and enabling prompt discharge from hospital. OHCA members provide home care services 24 hours per day, seven days a week and are positioned to respond to individuals on short notice.

A sustainable home care system that truly provides support for people in their homes is the only way to effectively break the cycle of prolonged in-patient utilization and non-acute utilization of emergency departments.

OHCA believes that all health system partners must work to advance solutions to provide "the right care at the right place" and ultimately increase Ontarians confidence in their health care system.

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### **About the OHCA**

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 to individuals of all ages. OHCA members are contracted by all three levels of government, Community Care Access Centres, insurance companies, institutions, corporations and private individuals. OHCA members are accredited through the Accreditation Canada and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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