

## **OHCA welcomes Minister Caplan's report toward a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in Ontario**

July 14, 2009 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcomes the work of the Health Minister's Advisory Group toward the development of a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in Ontario. The consultation paper, *Every Door is the Right Door*, sets the stage for a shift in health care culture toward better integration of mental and physical health.

Home care providers know that mental and physical health is inextricably linked. Comprehensive holistic care can be provided to people with mental health and addictions challenges in their own homes, schools and workplaces. OHCA is therefore pleased to see the inclusion of home care in the proposed strategy. Key to the success of this integration at the provider level is improved education and coordination of care, elimination of duplication, and the recognition and optimization of the contributions of all team members. This includes the significant involvement of clients and their family caregivers to undertake a key role in the management of their health care.

OHCA will continue to work with the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care to transform the health care system in Ontario to so that people can receive the right care in the right place and, where possible, access home care to minimize the risk of institutionalization. This important work will contribute to realizing a truly integrated health system for all.

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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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