

OHCA applauds PSW Community of Practice

June 2, 2009 – The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) applauds the establishment of the Personal Support Workers Community of Practice (PSW CoP) announced yesterday.

Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Seniors Health Research Transfer Network (SHRTN) provides an invaluable service of connecting practitioners to each other and to evidence in order to support high quality care. “This is a great opportunity for PSWs and their supervisors working in the home and community sector to access information and evidence that will support their day to day practice”, said Sue VanderBent, who serves on the SHRTN Board of Directors.

OHCA recognizes and values the important contribution of the Personal Support Worker (PSW). PSWs are the largest class of workers in the home care system. They provide care and assist clients of all ages, and their families/caregivers, with tasks of daily living, personal care and hygiene, restorative/activation activities and home management activities. PSW have a broad range of abilities. They provide for the comfort, safety and well-being of their clients, and also demonstrate sensitivity and respect for those in their care. The PSW’s positive attitude, abilities and approach is critical to the well-being and health of the people they support. PSWs typically spend the greatest amount of time, as compared to the other members of the health team, with the client.

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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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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.