

Ontario stays the course on home care investment

March 30, 2009 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is pleased that the government's 2009 budget maintains the current investment in home and community care notwithstanding the economic challenges facing the province. Sustaining the home care program demonstrates the government's awareness of Ontarians' desire to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

The health system transformation in Ontario is grounded in understanding the needs of individuals and tipping 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.

OHCA will continue to work with the Ontario government to facilitate the development of policy that will achieve:

- multi-year CCAC funding to establish consistent and continuous support for home care services
- accelerated integration of health system partners (within and outside the publicly funded system) in order to enable the provision of non-acute care in the community
- the establishment of guidelines for the appropriate balance of public funds to enable Ontarians of all ages to live and age successfully in their own homes and communities
- implementation of innovative technology applications to support care delivery at home
- direct funding to home and community care frontline service providers in order to fund new labour obligations
- meaningful and relevant support for family caregivers so that they have the ability and means to continue to provide the care necessary to keeping their loved ones at home.

OHCA believes that a successful home care system is achieved by organizations committed to continuous improvement, innovation and best practices in care delivery.

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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.