



December 29, 2009

Letter to Editor  
The Standard, St. Catharines

**RE: New face of health care December 27, 2009**

Congratulations to The Niagara Health System (NHS) for committing to help individuals to get home as quickly as possible. Home is where the majority of Ontarians would prefer to receive their health care if at all possible. As outlined in the NHS plan, providing the right care outside of hospital requires the support of the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and all the services within the broader home and community care system. Accordingly, the home care sector needs to be appropriately funded. The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) believes that funding needs to follow the individual and as such a decision to move people to the community should be accompanied with additional resources.

Further, OHCA recommends multi- year funding for CCACs in order to establish consistent and continuous support. The current 12 month budget cycle during which the CCAC must respond to unexpected demand surges (e.g. H1N1) often leads to withdrawal of care for people during the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Today home care funding as a percentage of the total health expenditure is estimated to be less than it was in 1998/99 when it was a 5.43 per cent of the province's health care expenditures. It is vital that the sector be resourced in order to achieve the results it is being called upon to deliver.

Sincerely,

Sue VanderBent  
Executive Director  
Ontario Home Care Association