

For Immediate Release

Associations launch website to develop new nursing leaders in home care

Toronto (January 27, 2010) The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) and the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting new web resource for home health care, which will support new graduate nurses in their practice of home care nursing. The funding for this project was generously provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) New Graduate Guarantee (NGG) initiative through the Nursing Secretariat.

The goal of this online learning tool is to educate and develop new nursing leaders in the home care sector. Specific leadership development modules in the areas of communications skills, advanced facilitation skills and systems thinking are offered in an interactive and visually stimulating way for new graduates and those nurses, both RN and RPN, who are new to the home and community care sector. The goal is to promote excellence in clinical practice in the sector and provide a starting point for building and sustaining a sector-specific Community of Practice.

Both Associations have been strong supporters of the New Graduate Guarantee since its inception. “We are eager to build on this initiative and strengthen our sector’s success in the recruitment and retention of future home care nursing leaders” said Sue VanderBent, Executive Director of the OHCA. “It is crucial that we all recognize the importance of strong leadership and how that translates to the quality care we provide to Ontarians each and every day” noted Susan Thorning, CEO of the OCSA.

The web site can be accessed at www.mynurseeducation.ca. It is available to all registered nurses (RN) and registered practical nurses (RPN) interested in learning more about nursing in the home care sector.

For more information please contact:

About 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).

Susan D. VanderBent, Executive Director

Ontario Home Care Association

Editor: www.mynurseeducation.ca

Phone: 905-545-1568

Email: suevan@homecareontario.ca

Website: www.homecareontario.ca

About OCSA

The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) is the voice of home and community support services across Ontario. A million people of all ages receive home care and community support services in Ontario each year. Home and Community Support services like home care nursing and personal support, Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Programs, Supportive Housing and Attendant Services for the disabled are important, cost-effective services which help people live at home by preventing unnecessary hospitalizations, emergency room admissions and premature institutionalization.

Susan Thorning, CEO,

Ontario Community Support Association

Phone: 416-256-3010 Ext 231

Email: susan.thorning@ocsa.on.ca

Website: www.ocsa.on.ca