

## **OHCA welcomes the Liberal Family Care Plan**

October 6, 2010 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) commends the federal Liberal party of Canada for its Family Care Plan released yesterday. Mr. Ignatieff clearly recognizes the importance to Canadians of remaining at home for as long as possible. In their plan, the Liberals have committed to a renewed agreement on home care in 2014 when the 2004 Health Accord expires.

Family caregivers are integral to home care programs and as such the Liberal party has also pledged to supporting those faced with extraordinary financial challenges as a result of their caregiving responsibilities. This is an important component of an effective caregiver strategy and the OHCA congratulates Mr. Ignatieff for this promise.

The Ontario government has demonstrated a deep awareness of the challenges for many family caregivers in our society. The OHCA is hopeful that the Ontario government will introduce policies that recognize the contribution of Ontarians to keeping their loved ones at home for as long as possible. Increasing the amount and flexibility of respite for families is an important provincial strategy that the OHCA believes would complement the federal initiatives and sustain families with extraordinary caregiving demands.

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 can receive care and stay at home with confidence. The federal Liberals have demonstrated leadership in their commitment to families. OHCA calls on the provincial parties to match the sentiment by committing to home care as a fundamental right for Ontarians; and by introducing policy to support the family caregiver.

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### **About the OHCA**

The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is a membership association representing providers of quality home care services from across Ontario. OHCA members represent an estimated 25,000 staff collectively serving 300,000 Ontarians per year. OHCA works with families as integral partners in the delivery of home care services and as such estimates that 1.2 million Ontarians are impacted by members. OHCA is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of the home and community health care sector by helping to shape health care policy, supporting members to excel, and being a leading source of information on home and community care. OHCA members are accredited through Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or registered with 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](http://www.homecareontario.ca).