



RE: Many seniors needlessly on nursing home lists, Pauline Tam, June 18, 2010

The growing numbers of seniors is a testament to a progressive health care system and to our success as a society. Our goal, as a society, should be to ensure that the growing numbers of elderly Ontarians, and the estimated 2 million family caregivers who love them, have ready access to the full range of home care and community supports. Services such as nursing, therapies, personal support, meals, transportation and day programs coupled with technology to facilitate monitoring and connectedness can help even those people with high care needs to live independently and safely at home.

In her article, Ms. Tam reports that the Champlain LHIN CEO recognizes the need for resources to enable the vast majority of elderly Ontarians who want to live and age at home to do so. Recent research corroborates the cost effectiveness of home and community care. The outstanding and unanswered question is "when will the shift happen?"

OHCA believes that it is time for funding and policy change that will serve to expand and increase the flexibility of the home and community care system in Ontario. The health care providers across the system must work together to enable our seniors to remain at home where they play an invaluable role in their own families and contribute significantly to the social fabric of their communities.

Susan D. VanderBent
Executive Director
Ontario Home Care Association