



## **Access to home and community care critical to keeping Ontarians healthy**

June 8, 2007:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is pleased to note the government's recognition of the importance of home and community support services to *keeping Ontarians healthy* – one of the three strategic priority areas identified by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

An effective health care system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century focuses on health promotion and illness prevention as much as it does treatment and in so doing, recognizes the imperative to keep individuals at home for as long as possible. By committing to improving access to home and community support services in its 2007-08 plan, the MOHLTC is recognizing the crucial need to tip the balance of care to the community. With a strong, reliable and accessible home care system Ontarians will be able to recover and/or manage their illness with dignity in the comfort of their home surrounded by their loved ones.

While the priorities of the health care system are on the aging population, the needs of the elderly and adults with disabilities, it is important to support the home care requirements of children with complex needs. Investments in children are investments in our future. The opportunity is to maximize the potential of home care to ensure that children are supported to be at home and to develop their abilities within their community.

OHCA members will work closely with the Ministry in order to achieve the commitment to improved access to home care.

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### **About 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 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 the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) 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](http://www.homecareontario.ca).