



OHCA Commends McGuinty Government for Recognition of Home Care Services as Integral to ER Action Plan

October 27, 2006: - The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) commends and thanks the McGuinty government for its responsive and comprehensive Emergency Department Action Plan released today. The Association is very pleased that the government recognizes the crucial role that the home and community care team plays in supporting hospitals to manage those individuals with urgent and acute needs.

"A strong and responsive home care system is necessary in order to enable people to recuperate at home", said Lori Lord, OHCA President. "Home care is integral to supporting individuals with long term conditions to confidently remain at home and to access community based resources", she added.

"OHCA members are pleased that \$30 million has been earmarked specifically to serve more clients who otherwise would have to seek care in emergency departments across the province", commented Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director. "There is much evidence to support the impact of an investment in home care on the utilization of the health care system. We are pleased with Minister Smitherman's demonstration of the need to address a system problem in the context of the larger impacts across the entire continuum of care", said VanderBent.

OHCA will be available to work with the MOHLTC and the CCACs to determine funding priorities across the province.

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The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, represents Canadian home care organizations that collectively employ over 30,000 staff and deliver quality home care to an estimated 250,000 Ontarians annually. OHCA advocates for a strong, dependable and accessible home care system for Ontarians. OHCA members are accredited through the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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