

OHCA Launches First Web Cast Seminar

October 13, 2006:- The Ontario Home Care Association's (OHCA) first web cast seminar yesterday was a huge success. For the first time, members from across the province for whom distance has been a barrier to attendance, were able to participate in one of OHCA's series of educational seminars directed at informing and supporting excellence within home care. "Reaching out to all our members as been a goal of the Board", said Lori Lord, President. "We are very pleased to have the means to enable broader participation in the sharing of information and already envision many applications of this technology for our members' benefit."

The web cast was made possible by the Dunham Group, a Hamilton based company specializing in web site design and maintenance, graphic design, and database and e-commerce integration. "The Dunham Group was able to take this concept and translate it into an affordable and effective solution for our organization", said Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director. "We see web casts as key to the future of knowledge transfer within our Association", she added.

Participants were enthusiastic in their evaluations.

"The web cast format was very efficient for our agency. It saved us time and money by enabling us to remain at our office.... We saved approximately 3.5 hours one-way in travel time alone."

"A great way to present. The information required to log in was concise and user friendly. I look forward to more web cast presentations."

The technology enabled seminar also attracted approximately 40 in-person participants and coincidentally addressed Information Technology in Home Care. Presentations from Gail Paech, Assistant Deputy Minister, e-Health Program Lead, MOHLTC; John McKinley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Health, MOHLTC & co-Chair Continuing Care e-Health Council; Ron Rogers, Manager, SSHA and Kevin Arbour, CIO, OACCAC were enthusiastically received. "Today's session brought new clarity to the direction of eHomecare in Ontario which will help shape our strategic IT investments in the future", said Barry Billings, President MedShare Inc.

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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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