



Continued Commitment to Healthcare Evident in Provincial Budget

March 23, 2007:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is pleased by the recognition in yesterday's budget of the importance of health care to Ontarians. The increased year over year funding and the government's continued commitment to integrate and transform the health care system will ensure its sustainability for the future.

Promised investments in chronic disease, health promotion and timely access to surgery are critical to address health needs and respond to the growing desire of Ontarians to maintain their health and independence while aging at home. "Our challenge as health providers, is to ensure that we work together effectively leveraging the skills and abilities of the entire team across all sectors," said Lori Lord, OHCA President.

"We must provide proactive interventions that support self-management and shift the balance of care to the community – home, schools and work places, in order to maintain individual autonomy for as long as possible," said Sue VanderBent, Executive Director. Ontarians want the right service at the right time by the right provider. The OHCA will continue to contribute to a successful transformation of our system by working with our all our partners, particularly the CCACs in the home care sector." she added.

OHCA members deliver front-line nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy, home independence services and medical equipment and supplies in homes, schools and workplaces across Ontario. OHCA membership is composed of home and community care organizations of all sizes and governance types.

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.