



OHCA supports Mental Health Month and enhanced awareness of mental health issues in Ontario

October 20, 2006:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) supports enhanced awareness of mental health issues as championed through Mental Health Month in Ontario. The Association represents service providers that deliver home care to Ontarians who experience both physical and mental illness. “On a daily basis, home care providers witness the strong links between physical and mental wellbeing. It is important to break the cycle of silence that surrounds mental illness and enable improved access to care for Ontarians”, said Sue VanderBent, Executive Director.

Funding for acute mental health care at home, agreed to in the *10 Year Health Plan*, is essential to normalizing the care of those with mental illness. OHCA members must ensure that staff are educated and resourced to provide appropriate care and support to provide acute care mental health at home. Comprehensive care of clients that includes consideration for mental wellbeing is an integral component of the Association’s quality standards for members.

The OHCA also recognizes and supports membership to ensure attention is paid to the mental health and wellbeing of staff, as well as clients and families. Every year OHCA hosts seminars to address employee wellbeing and ensure healthy and safe work environments for staff.

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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).

For more information, contact:

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