

## Implementation Guidelines for PSW Stabilization Finalized

Oct 26 2006:- The Board of Directors of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is very pleased to announce the successful result of discussions with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Caplan Report, *Realizing the Potential of Home Care: Competing for Excellence by Rewarding Results*.

Over the past several months, the OHCA, along with other provincial associations, has been assessing the impact of the Caplan report recommendations. As announced by Minister of Health and Long Term Care George Smitherman in May 2006, the base wage of all PSWs in Ontario will be established at \$12.50 per hour and travel compensation will be enhanced. The value of PSWs is recognized in the home care system. The implementation of these recommendations will help the home care sector to recruit and retain PSWs to care for Ontarians requiring home care.

“PSWs play an incredibly important role in caring for people who have long term health care needs in the community,” said Lori Lord, OHCA President. “We are pleased that the funding commitment has been made to ensure an increase to the PSW base wage rate, travel compensation and stabilization of the workforce including retention of flexible employment options for PSWs.” “The home care sector will play an increasingly important role in the lives of Ontarians,” said Sue VanderBent, OHCA Executive Director. “OHCA members are proud to do their part in transforming the health care system so that people can receive excellent care in their own homes”

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The OHCA represents Canadian home care service organizations that collectively employ over 35,000 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) and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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