



*Helping People Live At Home*

**For Immediate Release July 5, 2004**

**Service Providers Praise the McGuinty Government's  
Funding Announcement for Ontario's Home Care Clients**

**July 5, 2004** - The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Home Health Care Providers Association (OHHCPA) applauded the Ontario Government's announcement today of an additional \$103 million for the home care sector in 2004/05 - the first significant increase in funding in a number of years. This brings the total budget to \$1.3 billion this year. "We are pleased with today's announcement because it shows that the government has listened to Ontarians who want the right level of ongoing care at home, keeping them from being admitted to hospitals and emergency rooms and also helping them when they leave hospital after an operation. It demonstrates the Government understands the very real need that exists in the home and community care sector and its importance to the continuum of care in the health care system as a whole." said OCSA President, Valerie Bishop de Young.

"These funds will provide desperately needed services for people to remain living in their homes and community. The importance of these services continues to grow as our seniors' population increases, there is greater participation of persons with disabilities in community life, and there are mounting pressures on hospitals and Emergency Rooms" explained Stuart Cottrelle, OHHCPA President.

The McGuinty Government has committed to transforming the health care system in Ontario. A key strategy to accomplish positive client outcomes is the expansion of primary and community-based care. This funding announcement is the right way to go - moving towards cost effective community alternatives to more expensive institutional care. We look forward to working closely with the Government to ensure the best possible outcomes for our clients and the citizens of Ontario.

The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Home Health Care Providers Association (OHHCPA) represents 60 agencies/companies that provide the majority of home care services to 440,000 Ontarians yearly. More than 360 not-for-profit community agencies, 25,000 staff and 100,000 volunteers across Ontario are also members of the OCSA who last year provided service to over 750,000 people, and volunteers donated over 2.5 million hours of service.

**For more information:**

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