



## Quotes in Support of Family Caregiver Day Bill

### **Chris Dennis, CEO – Alzheimer Society of Ontario:**

“The Alzheimer Society of Ontario wishes to thank MPP France Gelinis for championing the creation of a Family Caregiver Day in Ontario. Everyone of us has either been a caregiver, knows a caregiver or will be a caregiver in our lifetime, and as a founding member of the Ontario Caregiver Coalition we encourage Ontario’s Legislature to support this Bill so we can build awareness for Ontario’s first Family Caregiver day on April 5, 2016. Caregivers continue to be the backbone of our healthcare system. It’s time we officially recognized the contributions they make every day.”

### **Sue VanderBent, CEO – Home Care Ontario:**

“As a founding member of the Ontario Caregiver Coalition, Home Care Ontario warmly congratulates NDP MPP France Gelinis for introducing the Family Caregiver Day Bill in Ontario. Family caregivers form the foundation of the home care and the health care system, providing countless hours of dedicated support and service to their family members, friends and neighbours. Acknowledging the significant role of the family caregiver is an important recognition of their invaluable contribution to a caring society.”

### **Lisa McCoy, President - MS Society of Canada, Ontario and Nunavut Division:**

“On behalf of the Ontario and Nunavut Division of the MS Society of Canada, I applaud the New Democratic Party for acknowledging the extraordinarily important role family caregivers play in enhancing the quality of life for those living with MS. The value of family caregivers, not only to

their loved ones but also to Ontario's health care system, cannot be overstated. The MS Society strongly advocates for more support for family caregivers. Designating the first Tuesday in April as Family Caregiver Day ensures we do not lose sight of the valuable role they play every day."

**Deborah Simon, CEO - Ontario Community Support Services:**

"Family Caregiver Day signifies the importance of tens of thousands of Ontarians, who devote their time, attention and efforts on an ongoing basis to care for those with various physical and mental health challenges," says Deborah Simon, CEO, Ontario Community Support Services (OCSA). "Whether a family member, friend or volunteer, these individuals are indispensable to those they care for, and an essential support to our health care system."

**Debbie Davis, CEO – Parkinson Society, Central & Northern Ontario:**

"Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive condition which over time may lead to a person living with PD to require different levels of assistance, over the course of years. Without the support of family caregivers, whether family member, friend or person of choice, people living with PD might needlessly enter the long term care system years – even decades – before they otherwise might have to. We thank France Gelinis for helping to bring attention to family caregivers through this bill."

**Carol Annett, President and CEO – VHA Home HealthCare:**

"Family caregivers are the heart and soul of our healthcare system and deserve Ontarians' utmost respect and gratitude. Ontario's declaration of a Family Caregiver Day is a welcome acknowledgement of the tireless work family caregivers do to look after those living with a disability, chronic or terminal illness. It is a very public 'thank you' to a group of individuals whose daily efforts and perseverance often fly under the radar. I'm confident that this declaration will prove a great asset in raising awareness about caregiver issues and their needs. Congratulations to France Gelinis on moving this bill forward."

**Anthony Milonas, Chief Operating Officer - CBI Health Group:**

"With one out of four Canadians caring for someone they love, family caregivers are the unsung heroes who surround us every day. CBI Health Group's professional caregivers couldn't be as effective as they are without the invaluable efforts of their family caregiving partners. We are proud to support the work of the Ontario Caregiver Coalition and look forward to celebrating the first Family Caregiver Day in Ontario on Tuesday, April 5, 2016."

**Nancy Lefebre, Senior VP – Saint Elizabeth:**

“We have seen the significant role family caregivers play over our 100 years of providing care in people’s homes. At Saint Elizabeth and Elizz, we understand their need for recognition and support. We welcome and applaud the introduction of the Family caregiver day Act, 2015.”

**Holly Quinn, Chief Nursing Officer – Bayshore HealthCare Ltd.:**

“Bayshore HealthCare is a proud supporter of the Ontario Caregiver Coalition, and we are pleased to support the introduction of Family Caregiver Day,” said Holly Quinn, Chief Nursing Officer at Bayshore HealthCare. “We believe people thrive when they are cared for in their own familiar environment, and our dedicated team works hand-in-hand with family caregivers every day and witnesses the impact these unsung heroes make on their lives.”