



Home Care Ontario welcomes new legislation heralding system change

June 3, 2016 - Home Care Ontario welcomes the introduction of the *Patients First Act* in Ontario, which sets the stage for transformative change in the provincial home and community care system. As a response to recent reports from the provincial Auditor General and *'Bringing Care Home'* (2015), the proposed Act will, if passed, give the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) an expanded role in the primary care and home and community care sectors. The Act is intended to streamline care delivery processes and integrate planning in order to direct more funding to front-line home care within the system.

As the front-line providers of home care in the province, Home Care Ontario's members welcome the opportunity to work with the government to improve the system as this change is implemented. "Over time these reforms will mean easier access to care for patients, better coordination and continuity of care, and a greater focus on culturally and linguistically appropriate services for Ontarians," said Home Care Ontario Board Chair, C. Reno. As the reforms are implemented, we look forward to working together to ensure that front-line home care to Ontarians is not disrupted and that referrals for care from other parts of the health care system are well-supported.

As identified by the Auditor General, front-line home care providers will continue to deliver excellent and efficient care to patients. As the system transformation progresses, Home Care Ontario will continue to advocate for a more equitable, understandable system with greater patient access. "Home Care Ontario members will provide the unique perspective and support of the front line to the broader system change process", said Sue VanderBent, CEO.

About Home Care Ontario

Home Care Ontario, the voice of home care in Ontario™, is a member-based organization with a mandate to promote growth and development of the home care sector through advocacy, knowledge transfer, and member service. Home Care Ontario members include those engaged in and/or supportive of home-based health care. In Ontario, service provider organizations are responsible for providing nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy and medical equipment and supplies in the home to individuals of all ages. An estimated 58 million hours of publicly and privately purchased home care service is provided annually across the province.

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