



Celebrating Seniors in Ontario

June 6, 2017: The theme for Ontario's 33rd anniversary of Seniors' Month in Ontario is *Living Your Best Life*.

Home care is uniquely about people first. Care is provided in the patient's home and home is where Ontarians want to remain for as long as possible. As seniors consider their options to maintaining their wellbeing, many will choose to retain services, such as home care, to remain independent.

In honouring seniors during Seniors' Month, government can do more by adopting a proactive enabling approach to aging. Progressive policies that address transportation, social isolation and support for family caregivers will encourage older adults to remain at home and contributing to their communities. It is time to speak openly about preparing for old age and discussing the full range of service options, privately purchased and government funded, that are available.

As seniors give to their communities so must their communities give to them. This requires integrated and inclusive comprehensive policy decisions that demonstrate a shift from 'caring for' to 'caring about' seniors. Seniors' Month reminds all Ontarians to think about making a difference by actively contributing to the creation of an age friendly society.

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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, Home Care Providers are responsible for delivering 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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