



Focus on home care essential

January 29, 2016 – Home Care Ontario agrees with J. Simpson (Liberals get it right with focus on home care, Jan 28, 2016) that home care is the right priority. The population of Canada is aging and most Canadians prefer to remain at home with their family, community, and memories, for as long as possible.

An agreement between the federal and provincial governments to target investments for home care service at the frontline, in people’s homes, is urgently required. In Ontario, the efforts to transform the system to one that “puts patients first” will only be successful if home care is adequately funded. Home Care Ontario is asking the government of Ontario to increase the funding of home care by 1% of total health expenditures – an increase of \$600 million that would provide millions of additional visits a year.

Because home care is supplementary to the contribution of family, home care costs less than care in a hospital bed. Investing in home care is a significant social investment as it sustains the family caregivers who provide more than 80% of the care. Most importantly, increased funding in home care honours the interests of older persons and provides the necessary supports so that they can recuperate or spend their last days surrounded by loved ones at home in their communities.

Home Care Ontario calls on both the federal and provincial governments to work quickly, and in partnership to achieve a better home care system for all Canadians.

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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