



Ontario Election 2014

THE CASE FOR HOME CARE

Home care is a significant priority for Ontario's aging population. A stronger home care sector is vital to Ontarians who want to stay at home safely and independently, recuperate after an illness or spend their last days surrounded by loved ones at home in their communities.

HOME CARE ONTARIO'S 4 POINT PLAN

1. Invest in Care

- Establish a funding formula to inform Ontarians about the amount of home care provided through the public system.
- Create a schedule of funding investments linked to population projections and aligns to approved funding levels for home care.
- Institute multi-year funding formulae in order to flatten the current annual cycles that can diminish confidence in home care's ability to meet demand.
- Require that health professionals find a home-based solution as a care priority and provide funding for programs such as Home First to support this expectation.
- Set an expectation and requirement that individuals be fully informed by the health system about the range of options (publicly funded and privately purchased) to support them as they age.

2. Invest in People

- Implement a new minimum wage for personal support workers delivering publicly funded home care.
- Adopt a three to five year plan of investments that establish home care worker compensation commensurate with wages paid in other parts of the health system, thereby enabling a sustainable home care system into the future.
- Launch an advisory group to address the barriers to employment in home care.
- Support greater emphasis on home care education within health care curricula and increase the number of clinical placements in home care.
- Expand programs such as the Late Career Nurse Initiative to enable knowledge transfer of near retirement clinicians across all disciplines in home care.



3. Invest in Quality

- Commit to a distinct service provider role within home care.
- Promote policy that all home care Service Providers deliver high standards of care and performance.
- Educate Ontarians on the fundamental elements of high performing providers of home care services.

4. Invest in Families

- Establish a respite program for families who provide direct care for a senior at home.
- Establish savings vehicles that help Ontarians to set aside funds to meet their needs for care at home as they age.
- Develop funding formulas linking publicly funded home to the amount of family involvement, and to facilitate savings vehicles to support future supportive care needs in order to remain at home.
- Introduce financial incentives such as HST exemptions, and tax credits and benefits, such as reducing taxable income, for individuals who purchase care from approved home care providers such as members of Home Care Ontario.
- Engage in dialogue with business to develop incentives that support a caregiving culture.
- Launch a public awareness campaign to increase knowledge regarding the need for “advance planning” and the establishment of a personal ‘aging strategy’.

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 54 million hours of publicly and privately purchased home care service is provided annually across the province.

For more information, contact:

Susan D. VanderBent, CEO

Phone: 905-543-9474 Email: sue.vanderbent@homecareontario.ca

www.homecareontario.ca