

**Home Care Ontario Applauds PC Government’s “Making Ontario Open for Business Act” as Good News For Ontario Patients** - Proposed changes will make Ontario’s home care sector more agile, more responsive and improve patient care

October 23, 2018 (TORONTO): Home Care Ontario, *the voice of home care in Ontario™*, is applauding the Ford Government’s new “Making Ontario Open for Business Act” for its thoughtful reforms that will make Ontario’s home care sector more agile, more responsive, and ultimately improve patient care.

“Today’s announcement is great news for Ontario patients,” said Sue VanderBent, CEO, Home Care Ontario. “Ontario’s home sector is all about providing care at home where and when patients need it, but the existing provisions made that more difficult. Ontario’s front-line home care staff and providers are dedicated, well trained and committed to delivering top quality care - these changes will help make sure they can do that.”

The proposed Act addresses the scheduling and leave provisions put in place by the previous government that undermined the agile, flexible and responsive nature of the home care sector. This is necessary both in response to patient needs, employee work preferences, and in working with hospitals on timely patient discharge, a key component of ending hallway medicine. The proposed changes mean home care providers can do more to ensure a smooth and timely hospital discharge for patients to get back home and keep them home. By effectively using home care in this way, pressures in hospitals can be reduced and ultimately create a stronger health care system.

“Hospitals and home and community care are part of the same continuum and today’s announcement will help build stronger linkages between hospitals and home care,” concluded VanderBent. “Now is the time for real and innovative solutions like the proposed Act to help build the kind of system that delivers high-quality care today and for decades to come.”

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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, 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.