



Federal funding for home care welcomed

March 13, 2017: Home Care Ontario congratulates the Governments of Canada and Ontario on an agreement for new federal funding over 10 years targeted for investments in home care and mental health care. The agreement reached on Friday provides Ontario with and \$4.2 billion - \$2.3 billion of which is for better home care.

On behalf of Ontarians, the Association reiterates the call for the funding to be applied first and foremost to patients. Funding is urgently required to support:

- First dollar coverage for palliative patients and end-of-life care at home.
- More seniors to stay in their own homes, rather than be admitted to acute care or institutional care.
- Improved support for patient populations with high needs, such as patients with COPD, congestive heart failure, or renal failure who would benefit from fewer trips to hospital.
- Better care for patients with dementia, including access to Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) making it possible for families to keep their loved one safe at home longer.
- Respite for family caregivers who are vital to the success and sustainability of Ontario's home care program.
- Frontline home care staff with the tools and means to electronically deliver care and connect with patient care teams.
- An effective human resource strategy for the sector.

This health funding agreement equips the Government of Ontario to make further investments to support the Patients First Strategy. Home Care Ontario commits to working with health system partners to ensure that this targeted funding is used to improve excellence in frontline home care.

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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.

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