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OCSA
Ontario Community Support Association

Press Release: OCSA releases report outlining three priorities to ensure seniors and people with physical disabilities can live at home for as long as possible

Recommendations highlight three key priorities aimed at optimizing the home and community care sector for better client outcomes and system sustainability.

Toronto – March 6th 2018 - Not-for-profit home care and community support service agencies are calling on politicians from all parties to commit to ensuring every Ontarian has the opportunity to live independently and well in their own home or community for as long as possible.

The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and its members are at Queen's Park today to meet and inform members of the importance and benefits to Ontario families of home and community support services.

In advance of the June provincial election OCSA has laid out how to maximize the home and community care sector's contribution to the overall health of Ontarians and Ontario's health system in *Better at Home: 3 Ways to Improve Home and Community Care in Ontario – Recommendations to meet the changing needs of clients.*

The report outlines recommendations under three priorities:

- Priority 1: Increase and improve services to meet growing client need;
- Priority 2: Stabilize and strengthen the home and community care workforce;
- Priority 3: Strengthen not-for-profit community agencies.

"Because our services go beyond meeting a client's current needs – they also protect against decline and the need for more expensive care in the future - we're able to punch above our weight. Home care and community support services make up about five and two per cent respectively of the total health care investment but its impacts are much larger than its budget share," said Deborah Simon, CEO of OCSA. "The recommendations contained in the report are strategic and cost-effective investments with impacts that extend beyond each individual client, and will benefit the health system as a whole."

OCSA is calling on all parties to commit to strengthening the home and community care sector and the not-for-profit community agencies that leverage more than 3.5 million hours of volunteer service.

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HOME & COMMUNITY SUPPORT
United in our commitment to care

"We believe that the province can ensure seniors and people with physical disabilities can live at home for as long as possible by focusing on leveraging the tremendous value not-for-profit agencies bring to the health care system, and by investing in the frontline volunteers and staff who are the backbone of home and community care" said Geoff Quirt, Vice-President of OCSA and Board Member and Past President of Community Care Peterborough.

Click here to access 'Better at Home', OCSA's Priorities and Recommendations report and here to access the summary.

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About OCSA

Across the province each year, more than one million people receive home care and community support services – and the need is growing. The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) represents 270 not-for-profit organizations that provide home care and community support services enabling seniors and people with disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. These compassionate and cost-effective services improve quality of life and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, emergency room visits and premature institutionalization. They are the key to a sustainable health care system for Ontario. For more information, visit www.ocsa.on.ca.

Interviews are available with OCSA CEO Deborah Simon. For more information please contact:

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