

CANADIANS WANT MORE HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

OTTAWA, February 12, 2008: According to the 10th annual edition of the Health Care in Canada Survey, released on Monday February 11, seventy-eight percent of Canadians polled support the development of more home and community care programs according to a national survey.

Throughout the ten year history of this annual national health care survey, public support for the investment in and development of home and community-based health care services has remained consistently high - remaining near or above the 80% threshold. "Canadians want to receive care at home and the survey results reinforce the imperative for home care programs that help to address this need," stated Nadine Henningsen, Executive Director, Canadian Home Care Association, "A well resourced home care sector will improve access to health care services for all Canadians."

While issues of doctor shortages and long wait times consistently ranked high among the Canadians polled, the challenges of managing chronic diseases and providing care for loved ones are on the rise. The need to develop cost-effective solutions to managing chronic conditions will continue to grow. While over one-third (37%) of Canadians have been diagnosed with a chronic illness, only 10% of these individuals report working with a family doctor and health care team. Developing community based programs and expanding the role of home care in partnership with family doctors and health team will increase this involvement and realize effective chronic care strategies.

Strengthening home care community care services will allow Canadian to choose to recover from surgery in their own homes; seniors and individuals with chronic health conditions will have choices in their setting of care, dying Canadians will be able to remain in their homes during the final stages of life and the necessary supports will be available for families and friends to provide care to loved ones.

Canadians value home care as an essential component of our health care system and their response to the *Health Care in Canada Survey* is a challenge and call to governments to continue to shift their attention to the home and community care sector.

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The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is a national not-for-profit membership Association dedicated to ensuring the availability of accessible, responsive home care and community supports which enable people to stay in their homes with safety, dignity and quality of life. The CHCA represents over 600 organizations involved in home and community care.

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The full Health Care in Canada Survey report and summary document can be found at <http://www.hcic-sssc.ca>.