

CHCA supports Alzheimer Society's call for national plan

January 4, 2010 – The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) supports the call for a national plan to address the needs of Canada's aging population. The evidence presented in the Alzheimer Society's report *Rising Tide: the Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society* provides compelling rationale for action.

As is demonstrated in the Rising Tide report, more than half the Canadian population with dementia are cared for at home. Home care is vital to realizing the preference of many to remain at home for as long as possible. Home care provides a broad range of services including supportive activities, personal care, care coordination, nursing and therapy. Home care programs rely heavily on family caregivers – individuals who provide 24 hour care to families in their homes. Notwithstanding the demand and importance, home care in Canada is a small component of the health system focusing primarily on acute short term needs; although many jurisdictions are engaged in initiatives to support aging at home.

The CHCA believes that opportunities exist to leverage the home care system and maximize the contributions of the health care team so that the demands of Canada's aging population can be better addressed. Funding models that support care delivery close to home; the application of innovative technology in the home; and the introduction of a national caregiving strategy are essential to enabling safe, effective and sustainable health care.

The time to act is now. The CHCA calls on the federal / provincial / territorial governments to engage in the development and implementation of these home care initiatives as a priority; and commits to working to support the realization of the changes that are needed to support the ability for families to keep their loved ones at home for as long as is safely possible.

- 30 -

About the Canadian Home Care Association

The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to ensuring the availability of accessible, responsive home care and community supports to enable people to stay in their homes with safety, dignity and quality of life. Members of the Association include organizations and individuals from publicly funded home care programs, not-for-profit and proprietary service agencies, consumers, researchers, educators and others with an interest in home care. Through the support of the Association members who share a commitment to excellence, knowledge transfer and continuous improvement, CHCA serves as the national voice of home care and the access point for information and knowledge for home care across Canada.

For more information, contact:
Nadine Henningsen, Executive Director
Ph: 613 569-1585
Email: nhenningsen@cdnhomecare.ca
www.cdnhomecare.ca