

CHCA applauds research on patient/client safety in home care in Canada

February 2, 2010 – The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) applauds the Canadian Patient Safety Institute CPSI and partners – including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR), Institute of Aging (IA), and Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH); The Change Foundation; and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) – who are sponsoring research that generates new knowledge and that contributes to improving the safety of home care services for Canadian home care clients.

“The home care environment is unique and, as such, the approaches applied to setting safety standards and measuring outcomes must be specific to the sector,” said Nadine Henningsen, CHCA Executive Director. “Home care professionals rely heavily on family caregivers – individuals who provide 24 hour care to families in their homes. Establishing a shared understanding of safety across the diverse caregiver network in the home and community setting while respecting the rights of individuals to make choices within their own homes is challenging and requires sensitivity and flexibility,” added Henningsen.

The research announced by the CPSI promises to provide valuable insight into the nature of events that place individuals at risk or potentially compromise client safety in home care settings. The CHCA believes that this work will be helpful to further leveraging the home care system so that Canadians can realize their preference to remain at home for as long as possible

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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.

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