

## Backgrounder – Portraits of Home Care in Canada 2013

### WHAT IS HOME CARE?

Home care is an array of services for people of all ages, provided in the home and community setting, that encompasses health promotion and teaching, curative intervention, end-of-life care, rehabilitation, support and maintenance, social adaptation and integration, and support for family caregivers.

Home care is an essential part of our health care system.

- Home care helps people maintain health, well-being and personal independence in their homes and community.
- Home care prevents delays or substitutes for acute (hospital) or long-term facility based care.
- Home care coordinates community-based health and social services, and residential care options.
- Home care supplements the care provided by family, friends and other community-based services.

### WHAT IS PORTRAITS OF HOME CARE IN CANADA?

Portraits of Home Care in Canada 2013 (Portraits 2013), the signature publication of the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is a unique profile of the home care sector that illustrates the provincial, territorial and federally funded home care programs in Canada. As governments shift from episodic acute care to long-term chronic care, Portraits 2013 provides critical information to support the role of home care within this transformation. A valuable tool for health policy planners, researchers, administrators and service providers, it provides a straightforward source of essential home care facts and figures on:

- Home care legislation, evolution and priorities
  - Access, eligibility and utilization
  - Funding trends and delivery models
  - Indicators, quality, research and technology
  - Human resources and family caregivers
  - Initiatives and challenges
- Information sources for Portraits 2013 include key informants from provincial, territorial and federal governments, and published reports. It is not a research paper and intentionally does not contain recommendations to support any particular advocacy agenda. The Executive Précis highlights similarities, differences, trends, and strategic directions of home care programs across Canada.
  - Portraits 2013 is the third edition of the Portraits of Home Care in Canada series, which includes publications in 2003 and 2008. This edition builds on the previous ones to expand our picture of home care, with more comprehensive data and new information on service delivery models, quality and accountability, and the impact of technology on home care across Canada.

**Through Portraits 2013, readers will gain a greater understanding of the complexities of the home care sector and its' vital role in an integrated, person-centred health care system.**

### HOW DO I GET A COPY OF PORTRAITS 2013?

Copies of Portraits 2013 are available for sale through the CHCA at [www.cdnhomecare.ca](http://www.cdnhomecare.ca).

Members of the CHCA will receive a complimentary copy of Portraits 2013.

### WHO IS THE CANADIAN HOME CARE ASSOCIATION?

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 to enable people to safely stay in their homes with dignity, independence, and quality of life. Members include governments, administration organizations, service providers, researchers, educators and others with an interest in home care. The CHCA, as the national voice of home care, promotes excellence through leadership, advocacy, awareness and knowledge. For more information visit the CHCA website at: [www.cdnhomecare.ca](http://www.cdnhomecare.ca) or call the CHCA National Office at 289-290-4389.