

Federal Budget 2021 Recognizes Importance of Care at Home

April 19, 2021 – Mississauga (ON) - The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) applauds the federal government on their broad measures to support vulnerable seniors who want to stay at home and receive the care and supports they need.

Helping seniors through the proposed \$90 million investment in the Age Well at Home initiative is a positive step toward expanding capacity in home and community care. “As a national association, we see the value of connecting seniors, caregivers and care providers through knowledge hubs and targeted educational programs,” said Cindy Starnino Board Chair, CHCA.

In addition to the previous commitment of \$1.5 billion targeted to home care and mental health, the \$4 billion one-time top up to the Canada Health Transfer and the \$54 million provision in the Territorial Health Investment Fund, both announced in the budget, will enable jurisdictions to provide more home-based long-term care services. “Providing home-based long-term care services has been recognized as a critical part of our COVID-19 response.” stated Nadine Henningsen, CEO CHCA. “There is an urgent need to expand capacity in home and community care programs across the country.”

The health human resource crisis in home and community care has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The inclusion of \$960 million over three years for a new Sectorial Workforce Solutions Program will address some of the immediate issues. The CHCA looks forward to working with Employment and Social Development Canada and home care providers to develop and deliver training for regulated and non-regulated health care providers and build a resilient and robust workforce.

Our experience through COVID-19 has shed light on the need to provide more care options for individuals at the end-of-life. Providing high quality home-based palliative care that addresses the needs of both the patient and their caregivers is essential. The proposed investment of \$29.8 million over six years will help advance existing initiatives and spread leading practices to improve palliative care skills and supports for health care providers, families and caregivers. The \$2.6 million per year ongoing, to Health Canada to ensure the medical assistance in dying framework is implemented will support home care nurses and physicians with much needed guidance.

COVID-19 has clearly shown that home, not a hospital or long-term care facility, is the safest and preferred setting of care for seniors living with a frailty, individuals with chronic conditions and those at end-of-life. The 2021 budget lays a strong foundation to build back better, to create a strong and resilient workforce, promote equity and choice and meet the needs of our most vulnerable populations. The CHCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the federal government to make this happen.

- 30 -

About the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA)

The CHCA is a national not-for-profit membership association representing home and community care stakeholders from governments, health authorities, administrators, and providers. Through Carers Canada, a priority program of the CHCA, we work to increase recognition and support for caregivers and vital partners in care.

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