

SUPPORT FOR END-OF-LIFE CARE STRATEGY

"This announcement is a good beginning to improving end-of-life care for the many Ontarians who want to spend their last days at home with family, confident they will receive the expert and compassionate care they need from registered nurses and other health-care providers," said **Joan Lesmond, president of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario**. "The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) commends the government for increasing its commitment to palliative care in the community."

"Helping patients to die with dignity should be one of the most meaningful acts in family medicine. Far too often, the family doctor and other caregivers lack the resources to address the complex needs of palliative care patients," said **Jan Kasperski, Executive Director & CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians**. "The government is to be commended for making end-of-life care a priority. On behalf of family doctors and their patients throughout the province, thank you."

"The Ontario Palliative Care Association would like to thank the Ministry of Health for investing in the community and beginning the process of Developing and Implementing a Provincial End-Of-Life Care Strategy in Ontario, said **Patricia Van Den Elzen, president of the Ontario Palliative Care Association**. "We look forward to working with the Ministry of Health to ensure that all Ontarians have easy and timely access to regional home hospice palliative care programs and that the planning and implementation of these programs follow the Model to Guide Hospice Palliative Care Based on the Principles and Norms of Practice as identified by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association."

"We welcome this increased support and funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care," said **Cathy Szabo, Executive Director, Etobicoke and York Community Care Access Centre**. "This money will allow clients to receive the compassionate care they need at the end of their lives."

"This announcement affirms the commitment of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to the individuals with life-threatening illnesses and their family members who, on a daily basis, deal with complex, multiple issues," said **Nancy Keat, consultant/educator, Ontario PSMP Network (Pain and Symptom Management Coordinators Network)**. "We look forward to working with our health provider partners to ensure a unified response in addressing these issues - together, we can make a difference."

"This is a significant government program that lends itself to the kind of assistance, supportive programming, and care that citizens in this province expect from the government," said **Marc Kealey, CEO Ontario Pharmacists Association**. "This is true leadership and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, along with the 10,000 pharmacists in the province support this effort to the fullest."

"Supporting care in the community when people are most vulnerable is always applauded," said **Valerie Bishop-de Young, president of the Ontario Community Support Association**. "Proactive supports like volunteer visiting, attendant care, nursing and personal care - keep people at home, in their communities. These services are very important for families at their most important time of need".