

January 23, 2007

## **WHAT EXPERTS ARE SAYING ABOUT ONTARIO'S NEW COLORECTAL SCREENING PROGRAM**

"The Canadian Cancer Society would like to congratulate the government of Ontario on implementing the first organized colorectal cancer screening program in Canada. The society has been advocating for colorectal cancer screening in Ontario for a long time so this announcement is good news. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Ontario and this program will save lives." – Peter Goodhand, CEO, Ontario Division, Canadian Cancer Society.

"Ontario Gastroenterologists support this program to screen patients for Colon Cancer. There will be expanded access for colon cancer screening, and by doing so, we will find cancers earlier, prevent people from getting colon cancer and ultimately save lives. This is a great start." – Dr. Jeff Axler, President of the Ontario Association of Gastroenterology.

"A province-wide colorectal cancer screening program is a major step forward in cancer prevention and care. This program will give surgeons and other health professionals additional tools and resources to detect and treat cancer early." – Dr. Robin McLeod, Professor of Surgery and Health Policy Management, University of Toronto, and Head of Division of General Surgery, Mount Sinai Hospital.

"The Ontario Pharmacists' Association is eager to work with the Ontario government on this unprecedented program. As the program is deployed, pharmacists will serve increasingly as an accessible channel increasing patient access to screening mechanisms to detect and help avert this deadly disease." – Marc Kealey, CEO of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association.

"Ontario's colorectal cancer screening program will enable us to detect colorectal cancer much earlier when treatment is most effective. The colorectal cancer screening program joins the Smoke Free Ontario Act as one of the most important policies in Ontario's history to reduce suffering and death from cancer." - Terry Sullivan, President of Cancer Care Ontario.

"As first-line health professionals, family physicians play a central role in preventing and detecting diseases. The Ontario College of Family Physicians is pleased to work with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Cancer Care Ontario on a program that will make a major difference to the health and well-being of the people of Ontario." - Dr. Sandy Buchman, President of the Ontario College of Family Physicians.

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