

## Media Release



### For Immediate Release

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### **New funding for Ontario long term care homes welcomed by OLTCA** *Government applauded for addressing member and resident concerns*

**Markham...** The recent confirmation by the province that it will spend an additional \$150 million on long term care in Ontario this fiscal year is welcomed by homes providing care to residents, says the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA).

"We are pleased with the 2011-2012 provincial budget allocation details," said Christina Bisanz, CEO of the OLTCA. "Government has addressed a number of our issues that will help meet the needs of residents living in long term care."

Bisanz added the association is particularly pleased with increased spending on nursing and personal care, activation and support services, and staff training and dietary services. It is also pleased with the new funding to hire 800 personal support workers. "These are resources that directly impact the quality of care and service our members deliver to residents," she said. Bisanz added that an additional 300 personal support workers are expected to be funded by the province later this fiscal year at an estimated cost of \$12 million.

"The OLTCA understands the financial pressures faced by the province and applauds the government for making choices designed to ensure residents continue to receive the high quality of care currently provided by long term care home operators," said Bisanz.

Highlights of the government's spending for 2011-2012 include:

- \$76.5 million for nursing and personal care as well as programming and support services.
- \$32 million for 800 additional personal support workers.
- \$15 million to address costs associated with implementing new regulation requirements.
- \$7.4 million to support staffing training.
- \$17.4 million to increase the daily food allowance for residents and to address inflationary pressures.

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### **Background**

The OLTCA is Ontario's largest long term care association, representing 428 homes from the not-for-profit, charitable, hospital, municipal and private sectors. Our members provide personal care to more than 50,000 Ontario residents and employ almost 50,000 people.