

COMMUNITY CARE ACCESS CENTRES

Minister Smitherman Announces \$700 Million to Support Ontario Seniors to Age at Home

Today the McGuinty government announced the launch of its strategy to transform community health services to continue to help Ontario seniors age with dignity and independence in their own homes and communities. Over the next 3 years, just over \$700 million will be allocated to expand and enhance home care, community support services, supported living and other innovative community services. This funding includes:

- \$593 million to be allocated to LHINs based on local population characteristics to expand community services
- \$40 million to increase access to mobility aids through the Assistive Devices Program, and
- \$66 million to address provincial priorities.

In 2007/08, \$3 million will be allocated to Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) to engage their local communities, to identify needs and develop creative solutions to address the diverse needs of seniors within their local communities. At the end of the planning process, the Minister plans to bring stakeholders together from across the province for an "Expo" to share ideas and innovations. The expo will help to inform the development of provincial priorities based on the innovative ideas brought forward through the collaborative local planning processes.

The Minister stressed the government's interest in investing, not only in home care and other traditional community health services, but in exploring new community-based options that could include service clubs, seniors groups and ethno-cultural groups.

The strategy provides a unique opportunity for CCACs to build on their relationship with LHINs, to engage with their communities, to listen to what seniors and their families are saying and help to develop creative, new ways to help Ontarians to age at home.