Ontario's Community Care Access Centres Applaud Minister Smitherman

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This morning Ontario Health Care Minister George Smitherman announced a comprehensive $109 million strategy and funding to address fundamental issues facing hospitals in dealing with emergency room wait times and patients requiring alternate levels of care.

Ontario's 14 Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) commend the Minister for addressing these major challenges on behalf of patients and their families. He has demonstrated real leadership by taking an integrated approach to make sure that patients get the appropriate care where and when they need it.

"Each part of the health care system is dependent upon the other in order to achieve the best health outcomes possible for the people of Ontario," said Margaret Mottershead, CEO, Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres. "Minister Smitherman's announcement today not only facilitates the partnerships but ensures that the resources and supports are available throughout the continuum of care.

"We commend Minister Smitherman's actions and thank him for recognizing that the CCACs are key partners in the health care system and that they need to be able to offer increased levels of home care services in order to ensure the success of the strategy," said Ross McCrimmon, Chair of the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres. "We look forward to working with our partners in the hospital and community sector to make sure people get the right health care service, when and where they need it."

Community Care Access Centres provide services in the home and the community for over 580,000 Ontarians annually.

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