September 2, 2014

For immediate release

Oakville Seniors Invited to Home Care Forum

Oakville, ON — On September 27, 2014, a community forum will be held at Oakville Town Hall to enable seniors and their families to share their experiences relating to publicly funded personal care and support with the organizations involved in the provision of those services.

This event focuses on the issues faced by seniors with special needs or disabilities, such as Alzheimer’s disease, vision impairment, physical ailments and other challenges. Seniors and their families can discuss the issues they face under the current service delivery model and offer suggestions for how their needs could be met more effectively. In addition, families with successful personal care and support experiences are encouraged to share approaches and methods that have worked well.

The objective of this forum is to gather ideas for improving the delivery of publicly funded personal care and support so that the needs of all seniors are met with compassion, dignity and respect. A synopsis of the discussion will be provided to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Several panelists, representing various facets of the health and personal support system, will provide brief presentations from the perspectives of their organizations and then participate in a constructive dialogue with the audience. Panelists include:

* John Rafferty, National President & CEO, Canadian National Institute of the Blind (CNIB)
* Mary Burnett, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Hamilton Halton
* Caroline Brereton, CEO, Mississauga Halton Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)

The driving force behind this event is Pearl Cameron, a senior Oakville resident who has received personal care through CCAC for more than 15 years. As a vision impaired senior, she has faced many challenges in securing the care and support that is appropriate for her needs. By organizing this forum, she hopes to provide constructive community feedback to the provincial government so that personal care and support services for all seniors with special needs are delivered effectively.

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