

## **Support for Caregivers Making a Difference for Families** *Ontario Funding Respite Services to Help Families Care for Loved Ones*

### **NEWS**

April 4, 2017

This year, Ontario increased supports for people caring for their loved ones at home by increasing access to respite services for local families living in communities across the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) region.

Today — on National Family Caregiver Day — local Members of Provincial Parliament and the Central East LHIN are thanking people for the work they do every day to care for their loved ones. A caregiver is someone who takes on the unpaid role of helping a family member or loved one with their physical or cognitive condition, injury or chronic life-limiting illness.

Investments from the province have allowed the Central East Community Care Access Centre (CECCAC) to expand their services to families across the Central East LHIN, recognizing the vital role of caregivers and the supports they need to decrease caregiver stress.

Mrs. M is an 89-year-old female living with her spouse in a Central East LHIN community. She has one daughter living close by who is very supportive. Mrs. M was diagnosed with late stage Alzheimer and is awake throughout most of the night. Recent episodes of wandering through the night to the cold outdoors has left Mr. M unable to sleep in order to ensure his wife's safety. Mr. M was recently able to access caregiver respite hours provided by the CECCAC, allowing Mr. M to get the rest he needs so he is able to care for his wife without burning out, with peace of mind knowing that Mrs. M is getting the support she needs through the night. The caregiver respite services also ensures that Mrs. M is able to be cared for at home, avoiding the need to go to hospital. Mrs. M's spouse and daughter are very grateful.

Ontario's support has allowed for approximately 600,000 additional hours of respite services for caregivers across the province this year.

Supporting patients and their caregivers is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#). This plan is providing patients with faster access to the right care, better home and community care, the information they need to stay healthy and a health care system that's sustainable for generations to come.

### **QUOTES**

“Improving home and community care is one of our government's most important health care priorities. Informal caregivers, like family members and friends, contribute to more than seventy per cent of their loved ones' caregiving needs, and we know how stressful that can be. We want to ensure caregivers are supported and able to take rests from providing care to their loved ones.”

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“On behalf of the Central East LHIN, we are pleased to acknowledge and recognize those individuals who do so much for their loved ones to help them remain healthier in their homes. Providing additional support to caregivers to ensure that the stress of caregiving is decreased will further action the government’s commitment to put patients first.”

— Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

### QUICK FACTS

- Informal caregivers represent approximately one in five Ontarians.
- The province has invested \$2,580,700 to better support caregivers in the Central East LHIN.
- The Central East CCAC provided caregiver respite services to over 1200 patients in fiscal 2016/2017.
- Ontario invested \$100 million last year to enhance support for home care clients with high needs and their caregivers.
- The investment provided \$80 million to support enhanced care for clients who are most in need and \$20 million for caregiver respite, allowing caregivers who need it the most to take rests from providing care to their loved ones.
- Through consultations with people in Ontario and members of Ontario's Patient and Caregiver Advisory Table, the province recently established a [Statement of Home and Community Care Values](#). This Statement reflects the needs and priorities of home and community care clients and their caregivers and ensures their values are reflected in the care they receive.
- These initiatives support the commitments made in [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#).

### LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#)
- [Bringing Care Home](#)
- [Ontario's Dementia Strategy](#)

#### For more information:

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