

Ontario Health Coalition

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Attn: Assignment Editor

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Ontario Health Coalition on Home Care Administrative Costs: Four Tiers of Administration Before Home Care Funding Reaches Front Lines

Toronto – The Ontario Health Coalition today reiterated its findings from a home care report it released in April this year. The report includes figures from Ontario’s Auditor General, showing the cost of home care administration through the CCACs. In addition to the Auditor General’s figures, the coalition notes that home care funding in Ontario goes through no less than four tiers of administration before funding reaches front-line care (see below). The coalition has been calling for reform of home care to create a public non-profit system which would redirect funding and staff to front line care.

Home Care Funding Flow

Tax Revenues Collected from Ontarians >>>>Administrative Tier 1: Ministry of Health>>>>
Administrative Tier 2: Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)>>>>Administrative Tier 3: Community Care Access Centres (CCACs)>>>>Administrative Tier 4: 700+ contracted agencies each with their own redundant administrations>>>> After four tiers of administration, funding reaches front-line nurses and personal support workers.

“The Ontario Health Coalition home care report uses figures straight from Ontario’s Auditor General who shows administrative costs of \$163 million in Ontario’s CCACs plus case management costs of \$364 million for a total administrative cost in the CCACs alone of \$527 million,” (page 113, Ontario Auditor General Report December 2010) noted Natalie Mehra, director of the Ontario Health Coalition. “In addition, there are three other tiers of administration in Ontario’s home care system, including the LHINs, the Ministry of Health and redundant administrations of hundreds of contracted agencies. While our report does not propose any particular dollar figure for savings, we do note that the CCAC budgets are top-heavy and our home care system is rife with duplication and profit-taking. Reforming Ontario’s home care to create a public non-profit home care system like exists elsewhere in Canada would simplify administration and redirect needed funds and staff to the front-lines of home care.”

“Fundamental reform of home care to stop competitive bidding, reduce duplication, and create a stable public, non-profit home care system, is long overdue,” she concluded. “ We are calling on all political parties to make this commitment in the provincial election. ”

The Ontario Health Coalition is a non-partisan citizen coalition, representing more than 400 member organizations, more than 70 local health coalitions and thousands of concerned citizens. Our mandate is to protect public health care under the principles of the Canada Health Act. The home care report, “Still Waiting: An Assessment of Ontario’s Home Care System After Two Decades of Restructuring” can be found at: <http://www.web.net/~ohc/homecare2011finalreport.pdf>

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