

1 **ON.16.01 Enhance the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care** **Education**
2 **& Health**
3

4 **Whereas,** the Canada Health Act of 1984 does not recognize home care as a medically
5 necessary insured health service; and
6

7 **Whereas,** through its financing role the federal government can facilitate national
8 approaches and standards that come within provincial jurisdiction; therefore be it

9 **Resolved,** that the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada
10 in 69th annual convention assembled, request that national council of The Catholic
11 Women’s League of Canada urge the federal government to enhance the Canada
12 Health Act to include home care; and be it further

13 **Resolved,** that this resolution be forwarded to national council of The Catholic Women’s
14 League of Canada for consideration at 96th Annual Convention August 2016.

BRIEF

1 The Canada Health Act of 1984, which received Royal Assent in April 1984, makes a distinction
2 between “insured health services or medically necessary services” (hospital and physician
3 services) and “extended health care services” (including home care services) which are not
4 covered (Canada Health Act s.2). Since home care is not included as part of the Canada Health
5 Act, provincial governments are not required to fund it in their jurisdictions. In order to better
6 serve the changing needs of Canadians, home care must be included in the Canada Health Act.
7

8 While provinces and territories have responsibility for health care delivery, the federal
9 government’s role through its funding of health care is responsible for facilitating national
10 approaches and standards for all Canadians (Canada Health Act s.7).
11

12 The approach to health and wellness has dramatically changed over the years, having shifted
13 from an acute care model in hospitals to increased care in communities (at home and in long
14 term care facilities). The goal of home and community care is to help people stay at or return
15 home while receiving needed treatment, rehabilitation or palliative care (Health Canada, website).
16

17 In 2012, just over 2.2 million Canadians, aged 15 years or older received some form of help in
18 their home to cope with a long-term health condition, disability or aging needs (Sinha, 2). Home
19 Care was provided by slightly more than “8 million Canadians”, (short-term sickness is excluded)
20 (Turcotte, 2013). Women were the majority of caregivers (54%) (Statistics Canada). Despite the
21 number of citizens receiving home care, only four percent of the publicly funded health care
22 budget is spent on home care (Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and
23 Technology, 28).
24

25 “Only four provinces (British Columbia, Ontario, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island) have
26 legislation or an Order in Council that defines and governs the provision of home care services”
27 (Canadian Home Care Association, xiii). There is a need for a national policy and programs
28 aimed at achieving a level of consistency across the country. “... access to these services and
29 programs varies significantly - it depends on who you are and where you live ...” (Keefe, 15).
30

31 By recognizing home care as an essential and necessary service in the Canada Health Act,
32 Canada will ensure that its citizens will have “reasonable access to health services without
33 financial or other barriers” (Canada Health Act, s 3). Canadians expect, and deserve, universally
34 funded home health care for all.

WORKS CITED

- 1 Canada Health Act, < <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-6.pdf>>
2
- 3 Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) (2013), “*Portraits of Home Care in Canada*”
4 <<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/health-system-systeme-sante/services/home-domicile/commuity-communautaires-eng.php>>
5
6
- 7 Health Canada, “*Home and Community Care*” <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/health-system-systeme-sante/services/home-domicile/commuity-communautaires-eng.php>
8
9
- 10 Keefe, Janice (Nov. 2011), Institute for Research on Public Policy, “*Supporting Caregivers and*
11 *Caregiving in an Aging Canada*”, <<http://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/research/faces-of-aging/supporting-caregivers-and-caregiving-in-an-aging-canada/IRPP-Study-no23.pdf>>
12
13
- 14 Sinha, Maria and Amanda Bleakney, (June 2014), Statistics Canada, Spotlight on Canadians:
15 Results from the General Social Survey, “*Receiving Care at Home*”
16 <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014002-eng.htm>>
17
- 18 Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, (March 2012) “Time for
19 Transformative Change, A Review of the 2004 Canada Health Accord”,
20 <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/soci/rep/rep07mar12-e.pdf>
21
- 22 Statistics Canada, “Study: Caregivers in Canada, 2012” <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014002-eng.htm>>
23
24
- 25 Turcotte, Martin, (September 2013), Statistics Canada, Insights on Canadian Society, “*Family*
26 *caregiving: What are the consequences?*” <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2013001/article/11858-eng.htm>
27
28
- 29 Government of Canada, Department of Justice, (Jan. 2016), *Consultations on Physician Assisted*
30 *Dying: Summary of Results and Key Findings, Part IV* <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/pad-amm/p9.html>
31
32
- 33 Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care, (November 2011), “*Not to be*
34 *Forgotten, Care of Vulnerable Canadians*”
35 https://www.mcgill.ca/palliativecare/files/palliativecare/parliamentary_report_eng_dec_2011.
36
- 37 Prime Minister of Canada, Mandate Letter to Minister of Health, (Nov. 2015)
38 <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-health-mandate-letter>

ACTION PLAN

1. Write to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of your province, the Ministers of Health (federally and provincially), and your local Member of Federal Parliament and Provincial Legislature asking them to include home care in the Canada Health Act.
2. Initiate a petition among CWL members requesting that governments include home care in the Canada Health Act.
3. As a CWL council, study the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care report "*Not to be Forgotten, Care of Vulnerable Canadian*" as well as publications from Catholic Organization for Life and Family that deal with vulnerable people (e.g. "Families, Christ Calls us to sow joy and hope!").
4. As a CWL council support local hospices financially as well as volunteering.
5. As a CWL council co-ordinate assistance to disabled and elderly (housework, cooking, appointments, shopping, etc.)
6. Invite speakers to a meeting that will educate members on home care services that are available in the community.
7. Continue to monitor progress on this issue.