

Mississauga, Ontario – October 15, 2012

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) recently released a White Paper entitled Enhancing Community Care for Ontarians (ECCO) – a Three Year Plan.

Closing the Gap Healthcare Group is very disappointed with RNAO's Plan content and recommendations. Although we support the principle of wage parity across the sector, we do not support the majority of the direction being proposed for many reasons. Most importantly is the negative impact the Plan proposes on the needs of the public. Regardless of any solution, the needs of the public must continue to remain in the forefront of all future plans, which RNAO's ill-conceived plan fails to address appropriately.

Homecare has undergone unprecedented policy and governance changes since the mid-nineties. Many of which have proven to be all consuming for the leadership in our sector. As a Registered Nurse and a Community Leader I have actively participated in numerous system changes that have resulted in improved quality, equitable access and standardization across the province. We have made great strides in these objectives, with a number of exciting initiatives already underway and many more planned that will facilitate our continuous improvement.

Today, the sector needs to stabilize and focus on the looming demographic shift that will affect all aspects of what we do. The RNAO model would take us back to the early nineties of a highly decentralized, tangled system of inconsistency and compromised quality care which is not in the public's best interest. This would result in an enormous and perhaps unsustainable increase in health care costs and potentially reduce the funds available for client care. In a time of heightened financial responsibility and sustainability, RNAO's proposal is a significant leap backwards. In addition, it is extremely concerning that the valued services provided by Rehabilitation Professionals across the province have been completely disregarded in the white paper.

Closing the Gap Healthcare Group is proud of the quality gains, partnerships and movement towards standardization within the sector. It would be irresponsible to disrupt the progress we have made within all the dimensions of Quality.

About Closing the Gap Healthcare Group

Closing the Gap Healthcare Group is an award-winning Canadian business that provides community-based rehabilitation therapy, nursing, and personal support services. Over 750 staff members located in multiple regions across Ontario provide service in homes, schools, long-term care homes, hospitals, workplaces and clinics.

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