

Financial Support for Primary (Informal) Caregivers

A resolution adopted at the 1990 OPHA Annual General Meeting

Code: 1990-06 (RES) **Status:** Archived

WHEREAS the vast majority of individuals who currently provide in-home long-term care services to, as well as coordinate professional health and social services for, family member (children or adults) who may be chronically ill, disabled, cognitively impaired and/or otherwise frail, are required to do so without financial support or compensation; and

WHEREAS, in the most cases, the time, energy and other demands inherent providing such in-home service significantly limits or curtails the ability of primary caregivers to undertake remunerative employment; and

WHEREAS in providing long-term care services, primary caregivers incur significant expenses for which there is currently little or no compensation either through direct government payments or tax relief such expenses may threaten their immediate and long-term financial well-being consuming their employment income, savings and/or assets (such as a equity in their home), if any; and

WHEREAS an objective of the provincial government, articulated in the Strategies For Change: Comprehensive Reform of Ontario's Long Term care Services, is to assist people to live in their own homes and communities whenever possible, and that such objectives can not be achieved without capable and willing caregivers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPHA call on the provincial government, specifically, the Ministries of Health, Community and Social Services and Treasury, to immediately investigate options for providing income security for primary caregivers supplying in-home long-term care services and implement an income supplement and/or replacement programme which would:

- (a) provide financial support or compensation for foregone employment income through direct payments and/or tax credits for the provision of service which would otherwise cost the government millions of dollars;
- (b) retain or provide health, dental and Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) benefits to the primary caregiver currently denied because of the lack of employment income and/or ineligibility for social assistance benefits; and
- (c) ensure a standard of living above the local area poverty line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OPHA advocate that such an income security programme be established concurrently with a comprehensive caregiver support programme (including respite services) within the context of the Long-term Care Service System Reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OPHA advocate that the Provincial Government initiate discussions with the federal departments of Health and Welfare, Revenue and Treasury to reform the federal income tax system to remove tax provisions which currently penalize individuals and families who provide in-home long-term care services to family members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OPHA call on the Canadian Public Health Association to advocate similar policies to the Government of Canada.

Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

ACTIVE, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

ARCHIVED, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

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