

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Health Quality Council Applauds National Report

Provincial body recognizes importance of tackling diabetes and chronic disease

TORONTO, CANADA (March 5, 2007) —The Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC) recognizes the importance of today's release of the Health Council of Canada's report entitled *Why Health Care Renewal Matters: Lessons from Diabetes* (<http://www.healthcouncilcanada.ca>).

OHQC Chief Administrative Officer Angie Heydon said, "There is a growing body of research about prevention and management of chronic diseases. It's a huge issue and there is increasing recognition for the need to tackle it. The Health Council of Canada report recognizes the need to address the health outcomes from both the population health and health services perspectives."

Heydon further stated, "The focus on diabetes in the report is important, particularly given the significant increase in the number of Canadians with diabetes over the past decade. This number will continue to grow unless something is done. The Health Council of Canada's report makes some very clear recommendations to help improve access to quality health care, especially in the prevention, management and treatment of chronic diseases such as diabetes. "

The OHQC's mandate is to report to Ontarians on the quality of publicly funded health care in the province. The OHQC will be contributing to the dialogue on chronic disease prevention and management when it releases its own report at the end of this month. The report looks at the chronic disease challenge in Ontario and highlights examples of excellent chronic disease care from across the province, as well as other critical issues facing health care in Ontario.

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About the OHQC

The Ontario Health Quality Council is an independent agency funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. The Council reports directly to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services, human resources in health care, consumer and population health status, outcomes of the health system and ways of improving it. The Council is made up of 10 appointed members from across the province who have a diverse range of expertise, including hospital governance, medicine, academic and research work, business, public and health policy, ethics and aboriginal and community leadership.