

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT HALTS AWARDING OF HOME CARE CONTRACT

Minister expresses concern for loss of continuity of patient care

TORONTO – In keeping with a government promise to ensure that Ontarians receiving home care services get the highest quality services possible, the McGuinty government today announced it is stopping the awarding of the home care services contract in Hamilton and surrounding areas.

“I will not stand by while dedicated providers and vulnerable patients are left with a feeling of uncertainty,” said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long Term Care. “We have advised the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre not to award the contract.”

This decision will halt the bidding process in Hamilton, the only community where a contract’s awarding was imminent.

Recent changes to the process were expected to enhance the continuity of care, said Smitherman. “The changes were intended to create stability and our government is disappointed with how the current process was unfolding,” he said. “That’s why this contract is dead.”

Smitherman indicated that he will announce next steps in the near future.

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