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July 2, 2012

Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee
Health Quality Ontario
Via: OHTACinfo@hqontario.ca

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: Proposed Strategy for Epilepsy Care in Ontario

Epilepsy agencies in Ontario applaud Health Quality Ontario, the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC) and the Epilepsy Expert Panel for their study and proposed recommendations to improve care for people with drug-refractory epilepsy in Ontario.

Epilepsy agencies agree with Health Quality Ontario and OHTAC that epilepsy is a major public health issue in this province and emphatically support the vision that ***Ontarians of all ages who suffer from epilepsy should have universal access to quality, evidence-based, comprehensive health care at the right time and in the right place.***

Epilepsy agencies in Ontario recognize the need for a whole-patient perspective in the delivery of epilepsy care and suggest that an integrated model for epilepsy care that involves coordination between medical services and community-based services would provide optimal care for people with drug-refractory epilepsy in Ontario.

Please find attached a report that outlines our comments in more detail including the roles that community-based epilepsy agencies can fulfil to optimize patient outcomes.

The proposed epilepsy strategy is the most exciting development many people in the Ontario epilepsy community have witnessed in their lifetime, with the greatest potential to positively impact many people's lives short of a cure for epilepsy. Epilepsy agencies fully support this proposal and suggest that implementation of the epilepsy care strategy should be an integrated approach to health care and community services. The epilepsy strategy has the potential to improve the quality of life of thousands of Ontarians living with epilepsy and their families. Epilepsy agencies strongly urge the provincial government and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to adopt the proposed strategy for epilepsy care in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Rozalyn Werner-Arcé
Executive Director