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**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\***

Dear PSW Employer,

As a valued stakeholder to the Ontario PSW Registry, we are writing to inform you about a relevant development.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has ended its funding for the Ontario PSW Registry, which has been operating within the Ontario Community Support Association. This means the final date you can reach the Registry will be February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

At this time, it is our understanding that the Ministry is considering a number of options related to ensuring a safe and competent PSW workforce. If you have questions about the Ministry's decision and/or its evolving home and community care policies, you may contact them directly at 416-314-5518 or 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free).

In keeping with our commitment to safeguard PSWs' privacy, all personal information that identifies who they are (for example: name, address, phone number, email address and documents with their name on them) will be removed from the database, and only remaining non-identifiable information about the workforce retained when the Registry shuts down.

**Please be reminded that according to the Ontario PSW Registry, registration with the Registry has always been voluntary for PSWs.**

Registration confirmation and the Job Board are now no longer available.

If you would like additional information please read the *Employer Frequently Asked Questions* sheet enclosed with this letter (it will be updated at [www.pswregistry.org](http://www.pswregistry.org) as required). You may also contact us at [EmployerRelations@pswregistry.org](mailto:EmployerRelations@pswregistry.org) until the closure date and thereafter contact will be at the Ministry.

We have communicated with PSWs who have applied to and/or registered with the Registry about this development. In addition, we are including the PSW letter and *PSW Frequently Asked Questions* with this notice; **and ask for your cooperation in sharing them with PSWs in your employment.**

We are proud of the work done to pioneer this groundbreaking Registry program as approximately 35,000 PSWs have voluntarily registered. PSWs are the backbone of home and community care, and we support and recommend further government investment into the PSW workforce to ensure that Ontarians receive the care they need, in the communities where they choose to be.

Thank you for the assistance your organization has provided to the Registry in support of PSWs in Ontario.

Sincerely,

The Ontario PSW Registry