



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Request for Expenditure, Education Donations Account: 2010 Fall Family Education Session

Date:	September 16, 2010
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The division is currently planning the *2010 Fall Family Education* session for October 12, 2010.

This upcoming educational opportunity will continue to build on the very successful spring 2010 session, and will emphasize caregiver stress from the family members' perspective and experiences with having a relative residing in long-term care. In addition, it is anticipated that this session will offer family members the opportunity to develop or enhance their repertoire of successful coping strategies with caregiver stress.

This report requests the approval of an expenditure of \$50.00 from the Education Donations Account as an honorarium for the guest speaker who will facilitate this session.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager recommends that the Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services endorse the requested expenditure of \$50.00 from the divisional Education Donations account as an honorarium for the guest speaker facilitating this session.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications to the Operating Budget of Toronto Long-Term Care Homes and Services arising from this report. This expenditure request is for use of the

Education Donation account and is made in accordance with the criteria for the use of this fund.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND

The Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division has an established history and commitment in promoting and supporting family education opportunities. This is evidenced through the many learning venues offered to family members, whether it be through family education events facilitated by the individual homes, the *Just for Families* educational brochures or inter-home Family Education series, to name only a few.

The division initiated an inter-home family education series in 2005, broadening invitations in 2009 to include community clients' families and caregivers. Generally the family education series has convened twice a year and based on the advice and suggestions provided through the Inter-Home Advisory Committee, the venues and times have varied so as to be as convenient/inclusive to as many family members as possible. Examples of the topics that have been covered in these sessions have included "visiting a family member who has dementia", "getting involved in the home", "a closer look at dementia care" and "aging in a diverse society". Attendees' evaluations indicate that they highly value these learning opportunities.

COMMENTS

The majority of family members caring for a dependent relative provide adequate to excellent care. However, there is emerging evidence of negative health outcomes when the caregiver role and relationship becomes fragile or "troubled". These relationships are often complex and multifaceted, including the dimensions of culture, physical and/or cognitive needs.

While many often think that the caregiving role remains only in the domain of the community, the caregiving role and associated feelings and relationships do not cease when the family member is admitted to a long-term care home. Recognizing these complexities and sometimes conflicting dynamics, the division wants to build on the momentum and success established at the *Spring 2010 Family Education Session* on the topic of caregiver stress, and further refine and focus the upcoming educational session on the family's perception and experience of having to admit and continue to care for a family member residing in long-term care (for example anger, guilt, sense of failure, depression, grief and isolation), and offer an opportunity and experience in developing or enhancing their repertoire of adaptive coping skills and strategies to these significant life changes.

The division is currently planning the fall session of the Family Education session for Tuesday October 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to be hosted at Wesburn Manor.

The guest speaker for this session is from the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto. The speaker has both a solid reputation for not only his ability to facilitate and

communicate sensitive and sometimes emotional information, but also his ability to structure the content in a manner that allows for experiential learning.

The expenditure for the honorarium for the guest speaker would allow the division to support this special family educational event which will be available to all family members from both the homes, as well as community-based clients.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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