



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30, 2004

**Vote puts home care on the health care agenda**

**Markham, ON** – A Liberal minority government has the potential to bring Canadians one step closer to improved health access and comprehensive health services in the comfort of their own home.

“Canadians have elected a government who has acknowledged that home care has tremendous potential to support meaningful and much-needed change – not only for clients and families, but for the health system as a whole,” said Shirlee Sharkey, president and chief executive officer of Saint Elizabeth Health Care, a leading not-for-profit home care provider in Ontario.

The Liberal health platform pledges \$2 billion over five years for the establishment of a National Home Care Program, encompassing services for post-acute care, palliative care and mental health and echoing the recommendations made in the Romanow Report. The Liberals have also promised action on key challenges such as primary health care reform, waiting lists and increased federal funding to close the so-called ‘Romanow Gap.’

“Home care will increasingly have a central role in our publicly-funded health system,” said Sharkey. “Political parties across the board have expressed their support for the expansion of home care and targeted resources for direct services, qualified staff and supports for a healthy work environment can help make that happen.”

Established in 1908, Saint Elizabeth Health Care is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization who shares its talent and wisdom in the areas of direct service delivery, consultation and eSolutions, to support the transformation of care for health organizations and the people they serve.

-30-

**For more information, contact:**

Madonna Tonack  
Public Affairs Specialist  
(905) 940-9655 ext. 2269  
mtonack@saintelizabeth.com

