



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging Achieves International Citation of Honour

The Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging (RIA) has been selected to receive an honorary citation as part of the 2011 Excellence in Ageing Services Award from the International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing [IAHSA]. IAHSA's Award program recognizes organizations and/or individuals for programs and services that are models of innovation and excellence and that contribute significantly to the quality of life of the individuals served.

RIA is being recognized for its "Working Together to Put Living First" program, an innovative approach to changing the culture of aging in long term care using an appreciative inquiry approach. Working collaboratively with staff, residents and family members of Schlegel Villages – a group of 11 Long Term Care Homes in Ontario Canada - the project demonstrated substantial shifts over 20 months towards a social model of living versus an institutional model of care, on each of the 9 domains assessed including such things as moving away from hierarchical departments toward collaborative teams, having more flexible routines, and more consistent assignment of staff to the same residents.

RIA will accept the award at IAHSA's International Conference, taking place 16 – 19 October 2011 in Washington, DC, USA. The program will be profiled in an award ceremony along with an organization from the Netherlands and the Excellence in Ageing Services Award winner, Feros Care from Australia. The IAHSA explains "Our three honourees represent the latest innovations in ageing services programmes and projects that provide outstanding benefits to the people they serve."

RIA is a member of the International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA), a global network of provider organizations, businesses, researchers, individuals and government officials, with representation in approximately 30 countries. Provider members reflect all ownership types, including for profit, not-for-profit and governmental ranging from single-site facilities to provider-focused associations representing large numbers of providers. IAHSA represents the interests of more than 20,000 ageing services providers world wide, serving almost 5 million elderly every day.

For more about RIA go to www.the-ria.ca. For more about Schlegel Villages go to www.schlegelvillages.com.