

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Attention: Health Care Reporters and Editors; News Directors; Assignment Editors**

**SCHOOLS OF NURSING NEED SUPPORT TO PRODUCE MORE NURSES**

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The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) strongly urges Ministers of Health to support – through funding and policy changes – the recommendations of the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee (CNAC) released in August.

During their meeting in Banff this week, Ministers of Health discussed the 51 recommendations of CNAC to increase and strengthen the nursing workforce in Canada. The CNAC recommendations addressed the nursing shortage and set out concrete proposals for attracting students into nursing, providing tuition support for nursing students, increasing the number of spaces for nursing students in colleges and universities, and forgiving student loans.

“CASN fully supports the recommendations for expanding enrolments and graduates in Nursing”, states Marianne Lamb, President. “However, without similar support to increase the number of professors to teach the students and clinical placements for their practice, our schools will not be able to cope with increased enrolment.”

Ministers of Health recognize that Canada faces a severe deficit in the nursing workforce – the very backbone of the Canadian health care system. Without more professors, clinical placements, classrooms and labs, the reality is that we will continue to be in an extreme shortage of nurses by 2011.

“We are in global competition for a scarce resource”, says Wendy McBride, Executive Director of CASN. “The American government has passed a Nurse Reinvestment Act to deal with their nursing shortage. Canada must take action now to support schools of nursing to produce nurses for the future of our health care system.”

Ministers have received 51 concrete recommendations and a framework for action to avert the shortage. Nursing schools and associations have worked collaboratively over the past 18 months with the federal/provincial/territorial CNAC to address the shortage. We are committed to do our part. Now governments must provide the funding and policy support to implement the recommendations.

**CASN is the national voice for nursing education and nursing research and scholarship. It represents 85 nursing schools across Canada.**

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