



*Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing
Association canadienne des écoles de sciences infirmières*

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Attention: Health care reporters and editors; members of the parliamentary press gallery; assignment editors

**ROMANOW'S RECOMMENDATIONS EXCELLENT – BUT CAN'T SUCCEED
WITHOUT SUPPORT TO NURSING SCHOOLS**

(28 November 2002 - Ottawa)

“Without an adequate, well-educated and well-prepared supply of nurses, the current and future health care system in Canada will fail to meet the needs of Canadians” says the President of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN), Dr. Carole Orchard.

“We applaud the Romanow Commission recommendation that citizens’ access to health care be through a variety of health professionals, including well-educated professional nurses, states Orchard. “Nurses have always played a significant role in the delivery of health services and it is now affirmed that this role needs to be further supported. An adequate, well-educated, professional nursing workforce is fundamental to promote and maintain the health of Canadians within a publicly-funded health care system.”

CASN congratulates the Hon. Roy Romanow for his leadership in a broad consultation of the Canadian population around our health care system and the reflection of Canadian concerns and values in the recommendations of the Commission. However, in order to develop and maintain the supply of registered nurses, several areas within the educational system need to be addressed and improved:

- ✓ an increase in the number of seats in nursing schools to accommodate interested and qualified applicants
- ✓ adequate levels of funding to ensure good quality nursing education programs
- ✓ support for the growth and renewal of nursing faculty.

In light of the growing complexity of health care, the level of clinical knowledge and judgement required of Registered Nurses and the importance of evidence-based practice in health care, quality nursing education is essential to health care. "There is now acknowledgement for the potential contribution of registered nurses to enhance timely access to appropriate care", says Orchard. "At the same time, there needs to be concerted effort to provide support personnel to relieve nurses from doing tasks that others could do, so that nurses can focus on using their educational preparation to full use."

As the voice of nursing education in Canada, CASN fully supports the recommendations presented by the Commission. CASN and its 88 member schools are prepared to work with provincial, territorial and federal governments to further the professional development of nurses within the system and to increase the supply of well-educated nurses to meet the system needs.

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) is the national voice of nursing education and scholarship.

Nursing Education and the Future of Health Care in Canada. CASN's submission to the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

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