



*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

NURSING SCHOOLS SUPPORT ROMANOW

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IS THE FUTURE

(29 November 2002 - Ottawa)

"The Hon. Roy Romanow has pointed the way for the future of health care in Canada – through a transition to Primary Health Care" says the President of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN), Dr. Carole Orchard. "Professional nurses are educated to play a key role in the health care system along the continuum of health promotion to acute care to palliative care", states Orchard. "Nurses have always played a significant role in the delivery of health services and health education. We are now prepared to work with all levels of government and other health professions to implement a transition to Primary Health Care."

Professional nurses, nurse practitioners and nurse specialists are educated to assess health status, identify problems, refer patients to the appropriate areas of the health system for the appropriate level of care, and to work in teams with other health professionals. At the same time, they can educate citizens on healthy living and disease prevention – keys to cost savings in the health care system.

"If governments will support nursing schools, we can support the transition to Primary Health Care" states Orchard. "But we need the necessary resources – increased faculty, teaching equipment and updated classrooms, computers and laboratories."

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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