

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**FEDERAL BUDGET 2003 - WHO WILL PROVIDE NURSING CARE?**

---

( 21 February 2003 - Ottawa )

---

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) supports the initiatives in the federal budget to provide \$90 Million in financial support to students in health disciplines since this will help in the recruitment of nursing students. But where is the financial support to nursing schools and professors?

Without an adequate, well-educated and well-prepared supply of nurses, further investments in the healthcare system will fail to meet the needs of Canadians. Nurses play a key role in Primary Health Care and Home Care, in Aboriginal communities, remote and rural villages.

“Mr. Manley has announced increased funding for research and innovation. But there is no guarantee that some of this funding will go to our under-funded nursing schools”, says Dr. Carole Orchard, President of CASN. “Increased financial support for nursing research and education will result in higher levels of university prepared nurses required to care for our citizens in hospitals, in homecare and in communities. But will the schools of nursing actually receive any of the necessary funding?”

The public and politicians know that the demand for nursing graduates is great - and the supply is far short of the need. Increased financial support for students and nursing schools is absolutely necessary if we are to graduate the number of nurses needed to provide health care for the Canadian public.

“Strengthening research and innovation in nursing will allow the development of new knowledge about health and wellness that can be used to improve the current health care provided by nurses in Canada. It will also provide incentive for nurses to pursue higher levels of education and become faculty members in our schools of nursing, replacing the rapidly depleting supply of nurse educators who will be retiring within the next five years”, says Wendy McBride, Executive Director of CASN.

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

**For additional information, please contact:**

Wendy McBride  
CASN  
Tel: (613) 235-3150 ext. 26  
E-mail: [wmcbride@casn.ca](mailto:wmcbride@casn.ca)