



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

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **ACCESSIBLE CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM = SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED NURSES**

### **SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED NURSES = SCHOOLS OF NURSING**

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(Ottawa, 20 March 2006)

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The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) supports the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) statement “demanding clear leadership to uphold the Canada Health Act”. CASN is the national voice for nursing education and nursing scholarship and represents nursing programs in Canada. Our mandate is to lead nursing education and nursing scholarship in the interest of healthier Canadians. CASN has national standards of excellence for nursing education; promotes the advancement of nursing knowledge; facilitates the integration of theory, research and practice; contributes to public policy; and is a national voice for issues in nursing education and scholarship. CASN has ten Task Forces with diverse interprofessional focus examining such important questions as Public Health, Palliative Care, Patient Safety, etc, all relevant to current health care issues.

CASN 91 member schools are well aware of the nursing shortage and the requirement to ensure quality nursing education. Therefore, we call upon the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health and Ministers of Education across Canada to recognize the pressing need to enhance universally accessible health care. Governments must now do their part to support Schools of Nursing to facilitate the achievement of an appropriate number of skilled and knowledgeable nursing graduates.

CASN is particularly concerned about having an adequate supply of nursing faculty to educate future nurses, an appropriate number of clinical placement settings, and sufficient infrastructure resources, and sees the need to focus efforts on ensuring quality education of new graduates who will be well equipped to work in the healthcare system in different roles, such as Nurse Practitioner. CASN along with our international colleagues has identified opportunities to collectively strengthen academic nursing requirements, encourage targeted populations to seek undergraduate and graduate nursing as a career choice, and reduce health care professional shortages.

A recent study published today from Leger & Marketing identifies nurses as one of the most admired and respected professions. The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing encourages the government to listen to Canadians, and best utilize nurses and other health professionals in the most effective way to provide accessible health care services.

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#### **For additional information, please contact:**

Mélanie Cossette  
Project Manager, Communication & Marketing, CASN  
Tel: (613) 235-3150 ext. 23  
E-mail: [mcossette@casn.ca](mailto:mcossette@casn.ca)