

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**SCHOOLS OF NURSING = SUPPLY OF NURSES**

**SUPPLY OF NURSES = CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

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Without well-resourced Schools of Nursing, there will not be the supply of well-educated nurses needed to support the Canadian healthcare system. This is the message that has been missed in the recent Health Accord and in the 2003 Federal Budget.

The 88 member schools of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) call upon the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health and Ministers of Education across Canada to recognize the pressing need for more financial support to Schools of Nursing – to increase classrooms, equipment, computers, laboratories, clinical practice opportunities, as well as increase the number of professors.

Current budgets for Schools of Nursing fall far short of the need. Many qualified applicants for nursing education cannot be enrolled because of space and educator limitations. Technical and computer equipment is generally outdated, and laboratories need upgrading.

The shortage of nurses in the healthcare workplace – hospitals, nursing homes, community health clinics – means that there is a shortage of clinical education supervisors to support nursing students in practice.

The Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee (CNAC) set out recommendations in August 2002 which addressed the nursing shortage and made 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 increased numbers of graduates in Nursing”, states Carole Orchard, 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 healthcare system. Without more professors, clinical placements, classrooms and labs, the reality is that there will continue to be an extreme shortage of nurses through 2011.

“Schools of Nursing are committed to doing their part,” says Wendy McBride, Executive Director of CASN. “Governments must now do their part to support Schools of Nursing to produce nurses for the future of our healthcare system.”

**CASN is the national voice for nursing education and nursing research and scholarship. It represents 88 nursing schools across Canada.**

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