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NEWS RELEASE

VON Submits Recommendations for 2007 Newfoundland and Labrador Budget

For immediate release

St. John's, Newfoundland, February 7, 2007. VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) has submitted recommendations to The Honourable Tom Marshall, Minister of Finance for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador for consideration as preparation begins for the 2007 Newfoundland and Labrador budget.

In its submission, VON encourages Minister Marshall to recognize the importance of appropriate funding for home support and the value that the not-for-profit, voluntary sector brings to the province. VON believes this will benefit the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, and achieve overall efficiencies in the health care system.

“There are many areas where we believe the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador can improve the health and prosperity of its population. The bottom line is that healthy people are productive citizens,” says Joy MacDonald, VP, Chief of Practice, VON Canada Eastern Region. “We encourage the Province to work from this principle as they continue with budget discussions and decisions in the area of health and wellness.”

While VON supports the government's 2006 commitment to increase health care funding to \$1.96 billion, the needs and demands of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the health system overall, are changing and more must be done to provide the appropriate level of care.

Recommendations were made on a variety of health care issues such as: improved access to home support, caregiver support, access to health care, the use of technology for integrated health care, health promotion and a stronger recognition of the role the charitable sector plays in our health care system.

“Several provincial initiatives, such as the caregiver network, the Provincial Wellness Plan and working toward a healthy, productive, skilled workforce are great steps in meeting the health and social needs of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador,” says MacDonald, on Newfoundland and Labrador's current healthcare initiatives.

VON is a national health organization and registered charity offering a wide range of community health care solutions that meet the needs of Canadians from coast to coast. VON is committed to continuous quality improvement and has earned the Canadian Council of Health Services accreditation.

For more information contact:

Catherine Hebb
Director of Public Affairs
VON Canada Eastern Region
902-446-3427