



*Touching Lives Since 1897
Au cœur de la vie depuis 1897*

NEWS RELEASE

VON CANADA GATHERS FOR 109TH CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2006 (London, Ontario) — More than 200 delegates are expected to gather at VON's (Victorian Order of Nurses) 109th Annual Conference and General Meeting to be held from Thursday, October 19th to Sunday, October 21st, 2006 at the Hilton London, Ontario.

Staff and volunteers from across the country will meet for four days of meetings, discussions and educational sessions focusing on home and community care, as well as to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of members of the VON family.

"This is a great opportunity for dedicated staff and volunteers to come together and participate in discussions on the future of home and community care," says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO, VON Canada. "The knowledge gained from these discussions will enable us to better serve our clients across Canada. "

Conference highlights include:

- Keynote speeches from Lynn Bessey, Chair of the VON Canada Board of Directors & Dr. Judith Shamian, President & CEO of VON Canada;
- VON Canada Dinner and Recognition Awards Ceremony sponsored by Sam and Rose Reisman. Rose Reisman is one of today's leading authorities on the balance of eating and living well. She is the author of best-selling cookbooks, a product spokesperson and a motivational speaker;
- Keynote Speaker, *The Power of Partnerships*, featuring Bob Watts, Chief of Staff to National Chief Fontaine, Assembly of First Nations;
- External education session speakers including:
 - Dr. Mary Robblee, The Nelson Group, on *Leadership and Organizational Health*
 - Janet Froid, Executive & Leadership Coach, Horizon Leadership Coaching & Consulting on *Strategic Fund Development Plans*
 - Dr. Linda O'Brien-Pallas, RN, PhD, FCAHS, Professor and Unit Co-Principal Investigator, Nursing Health Services Research Unit, University of Toronto and National CHSRF/CIHR Chair, Nursing/Health Human Resources on *Recruitment and Retention of Staff: Issues Facing Health Human Resources in Canada*
 - Patricia Huston MD, MPH, Chief, Emerging Infectious Diseases Section, Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division, Public Health Agency of Canada on *Pandemic Preparedness in Canada*
 - Dr. Carol McWilliam, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, The University of Western Ontario on *Partnerships Personified: Using a Model to Promote the Power of Partnerships*.

- Election of members to the VON Canada National Board of Directors.

VON is one of Canada's leading not for profit, charitable home and community care organizations. With a network of branches across the country, VON is able to serve more than 1300 communities through more than 50 programs.

For more information about VON Middlesex Elgin, please go to
http://www.von.ca/branch/on_middlesex/programs.html

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VON is dedicated to being a leader in the delivery of innovative comprehensive health and social services and to influencing the development of health and social policy in Canada. We are 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 quality improvement and is accredited by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation.

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