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## NEWS RELEASE

### **TWO SENIOR VON STAFF AND TWO VON BOARD MEMBERS HONOURED WITH ONE-TIME CNA AWARD**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 22, 2008 (Ottawa, ON)** – VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is pleased to announce that Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada, and Dr. Sue Matthews, National Executive Director Disease Management, Ontario Vice President and Chief of Practice will both be awarded with the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) Centennial Award.

VON Canada Board of Directors, Western Region Representative, Dr. Kathryn Hannah and Member at Large, Dr. Lynn Nagle, will also receive the award.

The CNA, in honour of its centennial, is recognizing 100 registered nurses from across the country with the Centennial Awards – a one-time award created to celebrate 100 exceptional registered nurses whose personal contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the nursing profession.

"I am so grateful to be honoured among my distinguished VON colleagues and all the other extraordinary recipients," says Dr. Shamian. "Nurses continue to make enormous contributions to the health care sector and I feel extremely privileged to be a very small part of that."

For more information about the Centennial Award please go to [www.cna100.ca](http://www.cna100.ca). Awards will be distributed at the CNA Awards Reception the week of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Dr. Judith Shamian has a record of impacting Canadian nursing through her contributions to professional and government organizations. From 1999-2004, she was executive director of the Office of Nursing Policy at Health Canada. She is known for her administrative leadership, mentorship and scholarship. She has been principal investigator for and contributor to a multitude of nursing research projects related to professional issues at the provincial, national and international levels. Her leadership has been instrumental in influencing and developing professional policy to move forward the agenda of nursing and patient care, influencing health care at the micro, meso and macro levels. Dr. Shamian leads by example and is well respected for her grounding in nursing practice.

As provincial chief nursing officer (2004-2006), Dr. Sue Matthews was the voice of nursing in Ontario. She challenged practices and culture, created quality workplaces, stabilized employment for nurses, and established a solid foundation for the future growth of the profession. She led a comprehensive strategy to support all nurses. Her poignant stories describe the essence of nursing. Through mentorship, Sue continuously supports new leaders. Sue continues to influence and advocate for nursing in her current role as VP, Ontario, and chief of practice for VON. She is a member of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation Nursing Advisory Committee and a co-investigator of the Canadian Nursing Leadership Study. Awards include the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Leadership in Nursing Administration (2002) and the Women's Executive Network's Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 (2004).

Dr. Kathryn Hannah is a nurse and a senior health informatics consultant specializing in information management in health environments. With over 30 years of experience in academia, health-care delivery, government and the private sector, Dr. Hannah has a rich depth of knowledge and experience in health-care delivery organizations, the health system and in nursing. Dr. Hannah has been a leading pioneer in promoting the involvement of nurses in the development and use of information systems in health care, both nationally and internationally. She has worked tirelessly as an advisor on behalf of CNA, representing the CNA policy perspective in many informatics forums. She has helped position nurses and nursing in key informatics dialogues and acted as a mentor to many students and young professionals throughout her career. Dr. Hannah has been on the VON Canada Board of Directors since October 2006.

Dr. Lynn Nagle was the catalyst for the initiation of the Canadian Nursing Informatics Association (CNIA) and served as founding president. She has been a major Canadian voice for nursing informatics in practice, education, leadership, and research for over 30 years. In addition to serving as a health informatics consultant, she is the Canadian representative of the International Medical Informatics Association/Nursing Informatics – Special Interest Group and is the senior nursing advisor to Canada Health Infoway. She has been a professor at the faculty of nursing, University of Toronto; a senior vice-president, Technology and Knowledge Management, at Mount Sinai Hospital; and is the immediate past president of CNIA. She has worked diligently to empower nurses to engage with informatics in a caring, scholarly yet practical way. She has also raised the position of nurses within the informatics field in Canada. Lynn was awarded the Canadian Health Informatics Association Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Award in 2005. Dr. Nagle has been on the VON Canada Board of Directors since October 2005.

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 continuous quality improvement and is accredited by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

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