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## NEWS RELEASE

### **PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VON CANADA ACCLAIMED AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF CNA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 19, 2008 (Ottawa, ON)** – VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is proud to announce that Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada, was acclaimed as the new president-elect of the board of directors of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) at its 2008 annual meeting.

“CNA is the leading voice for nursing in Canada and I feel honoured to have the opportunity to uphold this position and lend my voice to this vital and dedicated organization,” says Dr. Shamian. “I believe that the CNA, in partnership with the jurisdictional associations and other stakeholders, can make an enormous contribution to the health and well-being of Canadians.”

Dr. Shamian states that the three key challenges facing Canadians today are the sustainability of the publicly funded health care system, the availability of health human resources, and addressing social and environmental determinants of health. “Nurse can and should play a significant role in addressing these challenges. My goal is to use the pan-Canadian nature of CNA to move these key agendas forward, from both a regulatory and policy perspective,” says Dr. Shamian.

The CNA represents more than 133,000 registered nurses and nurse practitioners from 11 provincial and territorial registered nurses' associations and colleges. As president-elect, Dr. Shamian will become president after serving two years as president-elect. The board of directors of the CNA governs the organization by developing, setting, and maintaining policy. The three main roles of the board are policy development, advocacy and visioning.

Dr. 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.

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 Accreditation Canada.

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