



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

NEWS RELEASE

VON REVITALIZES ITS ROLE IN THE GREATER KINGSTON AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kingston, Ontario – July 5, 2006 – The VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) Eastern Lake Ontario (ELO) is moving forward to reinvigorate the role of VON in the Greater Kingston area.

For more than 50 years, VON ELO, including 34 employees and more than 100 volunteers, have generously provided over 8,000 hours of service each year. The branch currently offers:

- Meals-on-Wheels
- Community Assisted Respite Program (CARE)
- Foot Care
- Flu Clinics
- Wellness Clinics/Programs
- Private Nursing
- Private Homemaking
- DNA Testing
- Transportation (Volunteer)
- Third Party Assessments

Due primarily to contract losses experienced over the past few years, VON ELO has been forced to declare bankruptcy. Filing bankruptcy will not leave the community without VON. In fact, it will strengthen the VON's ability to grow the programs and services in the region because programs, services, staff and volunteers will be transitioned to VON Canada Ontario, which will stabilize the branch and allow it to continue to exist under the management of the national organization.

The VON ELO Foundation will continue to support VON services delivered and, as in the past, all funds raised for and by VON will support charitable programs and services in the communities within the Greater Kingston area. This will allow VON to strengthen its presence in this area in the long term.

For clients, nothing will change – the current programs and services will continue. All current employees of VON ELO have been transferred to VON Canada – Ontario Branch. All employees will continue to work from the same office in Kingston.

Support services such as financial management, human resources and quality management will continue to be provided by the Corporate Services Centre in Peterborough.

“VON is part of the local community health care heritage; we are committed to continuing operations under the best possible conditions for the community, our clients and the employees who have helped put the VON at the forefront of compassionate, innovative care”, said Alan Cavell, Executive Director. “We are also committed to ensuring that as we build back our presence in the area, we do it in a way that reflects the needs of the community”.

In the coming months, a new board will be constituted and every effort will be made to work with community leaders, clients, staff and the volunteers to put a plan in place to grow the VON presence.

“As a not for profit, charitable organization that is committed to meeting unmet local needs, we will be calling on our many supporters to ensure VON presence is not only maintained but grows despite this situation,” said Paul Ting, VP Operations (Ontario).

As a result of the transition, no employees will be displaced. All current 34 staff will continue to be employed. Most importantly, client services will not be disrupted because of this change.

“This was a difficult decision because of the image it creates. The community has always been a big part of VON’s success and so we are hopeful that we can continue to work with our partners through this transition because, despite the need to declare bankruptcy, VON ELO has experienced a growth in our services over the past year and are pleased that we have been able to help and support more people in our local communities,” states Alan Cavell, Executive Director, VON Central East District. “Our plan to reinvigorate VON in the Greater Kingston Area will move forward and clients, volunteers, partners, donors and the community can continue to expect and receive high quality programs and services delivered by VON.”

For more information on VON programs and services in the Greater Kingston area, please contact 613-634-0130.

-30-

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 of Health Services Accreditation.

Media inquiries:

Jennifer Stevens
Communications Manager
VON Canada
613-296-7803