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## NEWS RELEASE

### VON CANADA HOLDS FREE FLU CLINICS THROUGHOUT CANADA

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**December 21, 2007 (Ottawa, ON)** – With the holidays upon us, there is no better time to give, and that is just what VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is doing. VON is holding free flu clinics in 11 cities across the country, providing flu shots to those that may otherwise not receive one, such as the homeless population and others that have difficulty accessing healthcare providers.

“For 110 years, VON has played a key role in health promotion and disease prevention,” says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada. “The health and well-being of all Canadians is a top priority for VON and providing free flu immunizations is just one more way that VON is reaching out to the community and helping those in need.”

Although a flu shot will not prevent colds or other respiratory illnesses, an annual influenza vaccination is considered to be a valuable health promotion initiative and is strongly encouraged by Health Canada. It is effective in preventing flu in 70-90% of the adult population and 30-40% effective in the frail elderly.

Benefits to getting vaccinated against the flu include:

- Reduced employee sick leave and extended health costs;
- Fewer doctor visits;
- Boosts employee morale, by showing your workforce you care by making wellness a priority;
- Increases productivity and job satisfaction; and
- Reduces absenteeism, replacement & overtime costs.

With generous support from Solvay Pharma Inc, VON will be able to provide more than 2,000 free flu shots from now until the end of January. “Solvay is pleased to be partnering with VON on such an important initiative,” says Graham Jobson, President and CEO of Solvay Pharma Inc. “At Solvay we understand the importance of giving back to the community and providing the flu shot will be a significant step to keeping Canadians healthy well into the new year.”

VON will be providing free flu clinics through the following branches:

- VON Calgary
- VON Edmonton
- VON Grey-Bruce
- VON Hamilton
- VON Hastings Northumberland Prince Edward
- VON Manitoba
- VON Peterborough Victoria Haliburton
- VON Prairie
- VON Saint John
- VON Saskatchewan
- VON Toronto - York

Please contact your local branch for more details. For contact information please visit [www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca) and click on Branch Locations.

For 12 years, from October to January, VON Canada has offered flu clinics and employee immunization programs from coast to coast. Public awareness of health issues and disease prevention continues to grow in Canada and so does the demand for influenza immunization. Revenue from clinics and programs allow VON branches across the country to provide much needed charitable programs and services including volunteer visiting, caregiver support and education and Meals on Wheels.

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.

To support VON in your community, please visit [www.voncanadafoundation.ca](http://www.voncanadafoundation.ca) or call (905) 415-1208 Ext 5129.

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