



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

## NEWS RELEASE

### VON CANADA READY WITH FLU CLINICS

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Ottawa, ON) — VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is once again providing influenza immunizations across Canada. This will be VON's 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year offering flu clinics from coast to coast.

“As public awareness of health issues and disease prevention continues to grow in Canada, so does the demand for influenza immunization,” said Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO, VON Canada. “The VON flu immunization program provides high quality, convenient flu vaccinations and easy access to health information when and where people want it the most- in their workplaces and communities.”

Revenue from this program allows VON sites to provide much needed charitable programs and services including volunteer visiting, caregiver support and education and Meals on Wheels.

Flu clinics will be held from the beginning of October to mid December. Vaccine for these private clinics is provided by Solvay Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur. Last year VON administered over 160,000 doses of vaccine and provided over 5,300 flu clinics at both workplace wellness and pharmacy-based flu clinics.

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 and the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion, of which VON Canada is a member. The flu shot 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;
- Reduces absenteeism, replacement and overtime costs; and,
- Reduces interruption with service or product delivery

For more information on the **VON Influenza Program** in your area, please visit [www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca).

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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